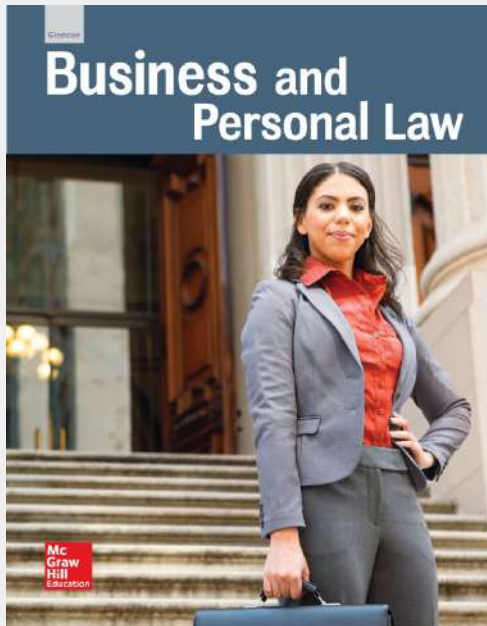


The Law and the Courts



Section 1.1

The Foundations of Law

Where Does Ethics Come From?

The Greatest Good

Examines whether the action will cause the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

The Golden Rule

The heart of the Golden Rule is empathy. Empathy means putting yourself in another person's position.

What Does Ethics Come From?

Real-World Ethics

There are moral rules most people know instinctively, without thinking. For example, lying is wrong.

However, real-world ethics state there are rare times when a person might lie. It might be permissible to lie to save someone's life. This does not mean what you have done is right. It means what you have done is less wrong than saying something that leads to someone's death.

Ethical Character Traits

Honesty – someone who is truthful in dealings with others

Justice – treating people fairly and equally

Compassion – caring about others and the situation they are in

Integrity – Willingness and determination to do the right thing