Preface

As a former practitioner of international trade law from a mixed-civilian jurisdiction and a student of comparative law, I am fascinated not just by the commonalities I see in law from other countries, but also by the differences. While the fashion among common law and international law scholars is to stress the commonalities, I have chosen to stress the differences. It is important to recognize, respect, and appreciate those differences, along with their consequences for the rule of law, economic development, and corporate governance. Furthermore, without recognition of both the commonalities and the differences, no culture can effectuate positive change.

This book has been almost eight years in the making, because the project's multi-disciplinary approach required a knowledge of history, economics, political theory, and philosophy—all of which involved a substantial amount of additional research. Along the way, philosopher Nicholas Capaldi became intrigued with the concept; the result was the co-authorship of another book, which amounts to a companion work, though its focus is much more on the philosophy underlying the common law. Consequently, if the reader has additional questions concerning those topics, please feel free to consult Nadia E. Nedzel and Nicholas Capaldi, *The Anglo-American Conception of the Rule of Law* (Palgrave-MacMillan 2019).