This book expands on the arguments originally presented in McNutt (2005) *Law, Economics and Antitrust* and represents an attempt to answer the many queries and critical points raised by colleagues and by reviewers. The scene is set by introducing an *x-law* environment in order to capture one's experience of the law, and as each chapter unfolds a series of arguments are marshalled around the theme of observational learning about the law. The writing of book has been influenced in part by the philosophical papers of J.L. Austin, the writings of P.K. Howard and Amartya Sen, the research of both John Law at Lancaster University and Bernard Hibbitts at Northwestern University, and by collaboration with Shanti Chakravarty at the University of Wales at Bangor and with Manfred Holler at Hamburg University. Many issues are introduced throughout the book and to clarify these issues an attempt is made to introduce what we refer to as a political economy of law paradigm. It represents a simple taxonomic theory of methodology, a procedure to distinguish different methodologies according to their own specific characteristics based in either economics or law.

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way for rational individuals to conduct themselves. The course we normally take in our everyday lives is to discover whether or not an individual or corporation has good reason to behave in the way that it, he or she does. This approach has facilitated an applied ethics as a consultancy tool in appraising corporate governance, and I am grateful to Elena Demidenko for her collaborative work on designing an ethical maturity index for business. The reasoning behind an applied ethics module for MBAs is contained in our discussion of Kantian ethics and responsibility in this book, but it has been decided to postpone a more complete discussion until the publication of Tao of Ethics available in draft form on my website www.patrickmcnutt.com.

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