



Millions of *Harry Potter* fans are awaiting the release of the next to last movie in the series later this Fall. A recent book published by the Carolina Academic Press and co-edited by Associate Dean Jeffrey Thomas provides lawyers and law students with insights about the role of law and lawyers in J.K. Rowling's magical world.

Dean Thomas and co-editor Franklin Snyder collected twenty-two chapters from professors in the United States, Australia and Israel. Those chapters have been grouped into five sections: Legal Traditions and Institutions, Crimes and Punishments, Harry Potter and Identity, the Wizard Economy, and Harry Potter as an Archetype.

The first section about Legal Traditions and Institutes considers the role of law and legal institutions generally in the wizarding society. Chapters address the role of law generally in the wizarding society, the “half-crazed” bureaucracy, the role of law and liberty in the narratives, and Anglo-Saxon historical allusions in the narratives.

The second section is about Crimes and Punishments. It looks at the “unforgivable” curses, the story of Sirius Black as an innocent person wrongfully convicted, and a tongue-in-cheek application of human rights law to the persecution of Tom Riddle.

The third section on Harry Potter and Identity examines the role of identity in the narratives. Chapters address the portrayal of families and family relationships, the depiction of moral development, and the treatment of racial and other differences.

The fourth section is about the Wizarding Economy. Its three chapters address the economy, money and banking in the Harry Potter narratives.

The fifth and final section contains chapters using the narratives as archetypes. Chapters suggest that the Harry Potter narratives can be used as a model for legal education, as an example of learning to “think like a wizard (lawyer),” as an archetypal hero story for advocacy, to illustrate agency law, and that Dumbledore’s wisdom and advice can be a model of appropriate behavior.

Although written by academics, the book was written by fans of the books and movies, is intended to be fun and entertaining. It is available on Amazon.com and at www.cap-press.com