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Immigration Outside The Law



Synopsis

In 1975, Texas adopted a law allowing school districts to bar children from public schools if they were in the United States unlawfully. The US Supreme Court responded in 1982 with a landmark decision, *Plyler v. Doe*, that kept open the schoolhouse doors, allowing these children to get the education that state law would have denied. The Court established a child's constitutional right to attend public elementary and secondary schools, regardless of immigration status. With *Plyler*, three questions emerged that have remained central to the national conversation about immigration outside the law: What does it mean to be in the country unlawfully? What is the role of state and local governments in dealing with unauthorized migration? Are unauthorized migrants "Americans in waiting?" Today, as the United States weighs immigration reform, debates over "illegal" or "undocumented" immigrants have become more polarized than ever. In *Immigration Outside the Law*, acclaimed immigration law expert Hiroshi Motomura, author of the award-winning *Americans in Waiting*, offers a framework for understanding why these debates are so contentious. In a reasoned, lucid, and careful discussion, he explains the history of unauthorized migration, the sources of current disagreements, and points the way toward durable answers. In his refreshingly fair-minded analysis, Motomura explains the complexities of immigration outside the law for students and scholars, policy-makers looking for constructive solutions, and anyone who cares about this contentious issue.

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Customer Reviews

The author examines the case of Plyler v Doe - a case about the right of unauthorized children to attend Texas schools - as a window onto immigration outside the law or immigration law as it works on the ground, sometimes outside the rule of law. The first aim of the book is to offer a way to think about why immigration law is an area of ambivalence and disagreement. A second aim is to assess and suggest responses to unauthorized migration. In straightforward and precise prose, the author raises important and timely questions about the status of immigrant in our time. This is a good companion and in many ways an extension of arguments started in Motomura's *Americans in Waiting*. I use this last book in a course on the sociology of law and migration. Now I'll add this excellent and lucid tome on immigration outside the law.

In great condition, as promised.

Outstanding insights from a clear thinker on a subject that is obviously close to his heart.

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