

# Buddhism AND Law

AN INTRODUCTION

EDITED BY

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Name of the Book: *Buddhism and Law: An Introduction*  
Author: Prof.Rebecca R. French and Mark A.Nathan  
Presenter: Justice Lungten Dubgyur, High Court

## Synopsis of the Book

As the first comprehensive study of Buddhism and law in Asia, this interdisciplinary work challenges the concept of Buddhism as an apolitical religion without implications for law. The book written in 2014 draws on the expertise of the foremost scholars in Buddhist studies and law to trace the legal aspects of the religion from the time of the Buddha to the present.

The Book reveals a diversity of relationships between Buddhist monastic codes and secular legal systems. According to the Authors, Buddhism has a detailed legal code that challenges the dominant modern understanding of law. They argue that Buddhist concept does not focus on cases, rules, rights, judicial procedures, decisions and sanctions. Instead, the concept of law in Buddhism is focused on adjustment of the individuals to a set of rules which enable them to operate within the community - which affects their conduct, reduces conflicts, diminishes the need for legal rules and facilitates contemplation, mindfulness, meditation and finally the enlightenment.



### Profile of the Author

Prof. Rebecca R. French received her B.A. from the University of Michigan and LL.M. and Ph.D. in legal anthropology from Yale University. She was invited to speak in many conferences including Bhutan. Mark A. Nathan is Assistant Professor of Radiology. He studied Diagnostic Radiology from University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He had Research Fellowship at Brain Positron Emission Topographic Studies, Topography Center at the University of Chicago.



### Profile of the Presenter

Justice Lungten Dubgyur is one of the judges of the Royal Court of Justice of the High Court. Previously he served at Paro District Court.

## Discourse

He presented on the origin of Bhutanese law and the connection on how our laws are based on Buddhism and principles of Buddhism. He narrated the general legal principles of truth, justice and violence. It is believed that truth is justice, which is undeniable like the four noble truths; justice on the other hand is based on the truth. A justice devoid of truth can be injustice and such injustice may breed violence. He dwelled on the concepts of Buddhist law, justice and contextualized the Bhutanese laws to see how our laws are based on such noble edifices.

