

Necessity of Law

As Scott Turow, a prominent American author and lawyer, put it so eloquently in his book, “The law, for all its failings, has a noble goal – to make the little bit of life that people can actually control more just. We can’t end disease or natural disasters, but we can devise rules for our dealings with one another that fairly weigh the rights and needs of everyone, and which, therefore, reflect our best vision of ourselves.”

So many people in today’s society are oblivious to the extensive role that law plays in their daily lives. They reap the benefits that law provides them with, but fail to truly appreciate it. Law is essential to the stability and success of communities and provides them with safety, jobs, health, education, and solid infrastructure.

Without the rule of law, chaos would rule. Absence of law often leads to violence, poverty, and disorder, but if law prevails, then it provides communities with order and stability. In the old west, people would flock to towns in the hopes of finding gold. These “boom towns” would pop up seemingly overnight, and they lacked rules or defined guidelines for conduct. Consequently, many of the residents were often killed in shootouts or fights. With the escalating crime and chaos, those communities had no hopes of prospering in the future. In an attempt to restore order, the town leaders instated lawmen to control conduct and keep the peace. Because of the stability that came with the new sheriffs, the towns were made safe enough for people to settle and businesses to be established, thus allowing the town to prosper.

If many people group together as a community, then they typically have something that collectively defines them. Whether it be geographical, spiritual, or ethnic commonalities that they possess, in order to maintain their community, some sort of order must be present. This desire for order and structure is what leads to the development of laws and the rule of law. Some

of the first laws are believed to have originated as customs. Historically, the development of law and order has evolved from a copious number of natural and institutional structures including monarchies, dictatorships or, more currently, democracies.

In today's society, a community in pursuit of opportunity and equity would likely pursue a democratic foundation of law to govern their community. As Aristotle said, "the only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law." The laws that are enacted for a community based on fairness are drawn up in an effort to support the mission and objective of the community as a whole, and might be voted on by each individual member of the group or by elected representatives for the group. As a result, effective law is an ever changing body of work that can evolve as each community grows in order to continue to provide security for individuals, economic prosperity, and collective progress of the community.