

The Pope's Other Jobs: Judge and Lawgiver

An exhibition curated by Anders Winroth, Forst Family Professor of History, and Michael Widener, Rare Book Librarian, Lillian Goldman Law Library, Yale University.

On display September 8 - December 15, 2015 in the Rare Book Exhibition Gallery, Level L2, Lillian Goldman Law Library.

Yale Law School, 127 Wall Street, New Haven, Connecticut



Source: Niccolò de Tudeschi, Lectura super V libris decretalium (Basel, 1477).

EARLY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES promoted sisterly and brotherly love, trying to resolve disputes within the church without involving civil courts. Bishops increasingly took on the roles of arbiters and judges, and as the Roman Empire became Christianized they even acquired formal rights to judge civil matters. When imperial authority declined and disappeared in the Roman West, bishops took over aspects of local government, even organizing defenses against Vikings and other raiders when secular authorities were nowhere to be found.

As the bishop of the ancient capital Rome, the pope was always recognized as the foremost bishop. He became the highest judicial authority in the Church, especially after the reform movements of the eleventh and twelfth centuries centralized the Church in Rome. The pope's legal decisions became precedents and popes continued to issue new laws at councils (meetings of bishops). When the law schools came back in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, canon law (the law of the church) took center stage as a most sophisticated legal system, not only inspiring much secular law but also be-

coming recognized as the sole authority in several legal fields, such as the law of marriage, the law of just war, and the legal implications of oaths.

The convulsions associated with the Reformation of the sixteenth century and the growth of the modern state deprived the papacy of much of its judicial and legislative power. Popes continued to issue laws, but most of these were only valid inside the Church. Until the Italian unification in 1870, the pope continued to rule as a sovereign prince over a large slice of central Italy, the Papal States, which still survive as a faint echo in the miniature country of the Vatican City.

The books and manuscripts in this exhibition, from the Yale Law Library's Rare Book Collection and the library of the Stephan Kuttner Institute of Medieval Canon Law, show how the papacy has shaped areas as diverse as human rights, international boundaries, due process, and marriage law. Hopefully they will also inspire you to exploit these collections for your teaching and research.

ANDERS WINROTH MICHAEL WIDENER

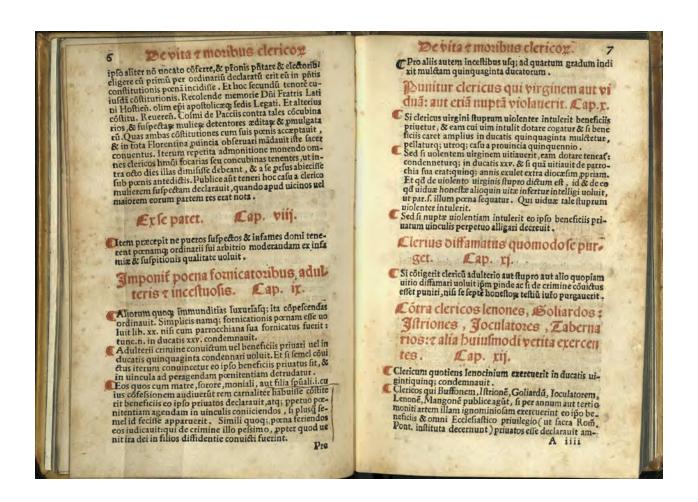




Medieval popes promulgated a handful of official law books by sending them to the great law schools of Europe. Pope John XXII (1316-34) in 1318 issued the *Clementines*, a collection of his predecessor Clement V's legislation. The image at the beginning of the Law Library's four-teenth-century copy depicts the pope handing

the book to scholars, symbolizing the official promulgation of the text.

Clementinae constitutiones, with the gloss of Giovanni d'Andrea. Manuscript, 14th century.





The church continued to issue laws, at councils and in other contexts. Such legislation was of great interest and once the printing press had been invented, it was widely disseminated. The local church council that met in Florence in 1517 under the auspices of the future Pope Clement VII (1523-34) summarized much useful legislation which was printed, partially in red, in what was nicknamed *The Red Letter Book*.

Statuta Concilii Florentini. Florence: Bartolomeo Sermartelli, 1564.



De Origine.

Fo.x

Deorigine lacerdotij & imperij. Abentautem Sacerdotium 3 Impe rium vnu principiu vnde pce Terunt, x,di.c. Constitutiones in glo. Nam in veteri testamento an= telegem sacerdotium & imperium primogenito co= petebant. Sedifrael transtulit imperium a Rube pri= mogenito suo ad tribu iuda, vt habetur Gen, xlix, Et lacerdotiŭ traflatum estad tribu Leui. Quado popu lus ilrael fuit in egypto: vt habetur.j. Reguij. De tris buaute iuda ortus est dominus noster Leius christus &adeadeipse transtulit sacerdocum: vthabetur He bre.v.& extra de cofti.c. Traflato facerdotio. Ideogs iplechristus vtrace potestate vsus est.x.di.c.Quoni= am idem Quedam enim fecit vt imperator: Cum ve dentes & ementes de templo flagello eiecit & kathe= dras vendentium & ementium colubas euertit & nu mulariorum es effudit sui precepti auctoritate denu= cians & dicens. Nolite facere domum patris mei do= mumnegociationis-i-q-iij-Ex multis- Quedamau= tem fecitvt sacerdos. Quando se obtulit hostiam di= scipulis dicens: Hocest corpus meum. Ipseenim la cerdos dei patris dicitur filius dei secundum humani tatem In qua se pro nobis acceptabile sacrificium ob tulit deo patri vt sitipse sacerdos qui est sacrificium de conse. di.ij.c. Sacerdos. Sed licet christus vtracussit vius potestate. Ipsas tamen distinctas este voluit quatenus spiritualis a carnalibus distaret: In cursi= bus & deo militans minime se negocijs secularibus i= plicaret. Ac viciffim ille non rebus diuinis presidere bij.

Medieval and modern thinkers have devoted much effort to illuminating the relationship of the respective powers of state and church. At the end of the Middle Ages Johannes Hug published a controversial treatise that examined how the powers of popes, bishops, curates, and emperors related to each other. The book has been called the first textbook on German constitutional law. Hug's work was controversial and

he concluded it with a protestation that he had not written anything against the Christian faith or the Catholic Church, and if anyone found any offensive passages, he disavowed them.

Johannes Hug. *Quadruvium Ecclesie*. Paris: Guillaume Eustace, 1509.

Sedem, nosque ipsos amore sese invicem osculantibus, perpetua quoque jultitia, & pax tantopere utrique profutura sese invicem osculentur, & firmilsimo consistant. Interim Majestati tui Apoltolicam benedictionem amantissime impertimur. Datum Romæ apud Sanctam Mariam Majorem sub Annulo Piscatoris die decima Septembris millesimo septingentesimo quinquagesimo tertio. Pontificatus nostri anno decimoquarto. = Cajetanus Amatus. = Loco Annuli Piscatoris.

BULLA ALEXANDRI VI. in qua concedit Regibus Catholicis Infulas

Novi Orbis repertas, & reperiendas. Data Romæ quarto Nonas Maij 1493.

ALEXANDER EPISCOPUS,

Servus Servorum Dei.

CHARISSIMO IN CHRISTO FILIO FERDINANDO REGI-& charifsimæ in Christo filiæ Elifabeth Reginæ Castellæ, Lex gionis, Aragonum, Siciliz, & Granatæ illustribus, falutem, & Apostolicam benedictionem.

Num.

Num. ribus exaltetur, ac ubilibet amplietur, &dilatetur, animarumque salus procuretur, ac barbarica nationes deprimantur, & ad Fidem ipfam reducantur. Unde cum ad hanc facram Petri Sedem Divina favente clementia (meritis licet imparibus) evecti fuerimus, cognoscentes vos tamquam veros Catholicos Reges, & Principes, quales semper suisse novimus, & à vobis pre-clare gesta toti pene jam Orbi notissima demonstrant, nedum mismo, se enlacen tambien mutuamente, y subsistan sirmissimas la Num perpetua justicia, y la paz, que ban de ser tan utiles à ambas Par-IV. tes. Entre tanto damos à tu Magestad amantissimamente la Bendicion Apostolica. Dada en Roma en Santa Maria la Mayor, baxo del Anillo del Pescador, el dia diez de Septiembre de mil seccientos y cinquenta y tres. De nuestro Pontificado año decimo quarto. = Cayetano Amato. = Lugar & del Anillo del Pef-

BULA DE ALEXANDRO VI. en que concede à los Señores Reyes Catholicos las

Islas halladas, ò que se hallaren en las Indias. Su data en Roma à 4. de Mayo de 1493.

ALEXANDRO VI. OBISTO, Siervo de los Siervos de Dios.

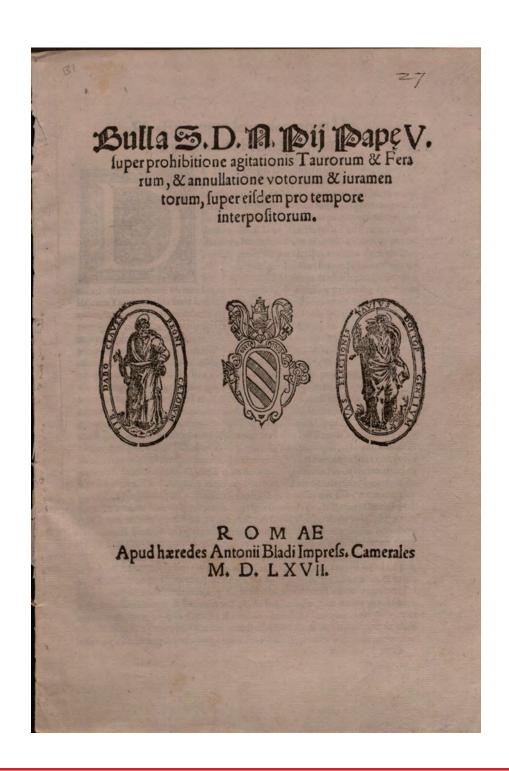
A LOS ILUSTRES CHARISSIMO EN CHRISTO HIJOS Fernando, è Isabèl , Rey , y Reyna de Castilla , Leon, Aragon, Sicilia , y Granada , salud , y bendicion Apostolica.

Ntre las demás obras agradables à la Divina Magestad, y dignas del defeo de nuestro corazon, à la verdad tiene el pri-mer lugar, que la Fè Catholica, y Religion Christiana se ensalce, con especialidad en nuestros tiempos, y se amplie, y dilate por todas partes, procurando la salud de las Almas, que se destruyan las Bar-baras Naciones, y se reduzcan à la misma Fè: Por lo qual, bavien-do sido exaltado, savoreciendonos la Clemencia Divina, (aunque sin meritos) à esta Sagrada Silla de San Pedro , conociendoos como verdaderos Reyes Catholicos , y Principes , fegun que fiempre hemos conocido lo sois, y lo demuestran vuestras claras hazañas, nocorias d Ccc 2

Pope Alexander VI (the Borgia pope, 1492-1503) supported the conquest and colonization of the Americas through European imperial powers. His division of lands between Spain and Portugal in 1494 through the Treaty of Tordesillas still plays a role in international relations, with Argentina citing it as a foundation for its claim to the Falkland Islands/Las Malvinas. Alexander also gave Ferdinand and Isabel of Spain the right to collect the tithes in the territories they

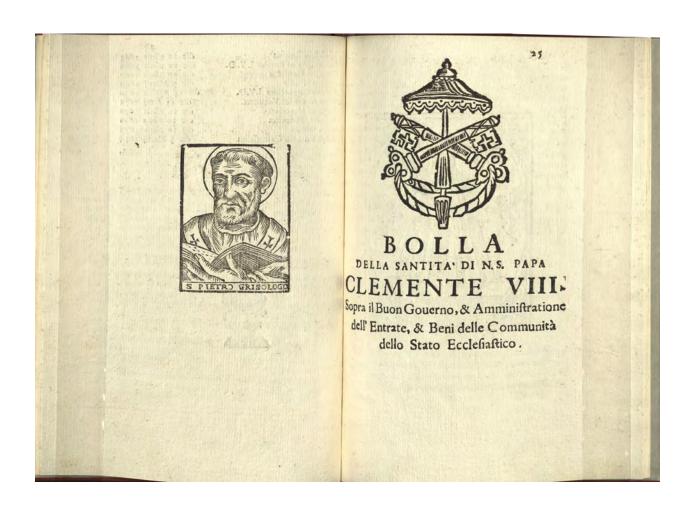
colonized in "the Indies," as America was still called in a 1501 papal bull, here reproduced both in the original Latin and in Spanish translation.

> Antonio Joachín de Ribadeneyra Barrientos. Manual compendio de el regio patronato indiano. Madrid: Antonio Marin, 1755.



Traditionally, the Church outlawed duels and tournaments. In 1567, Pope Pius V (1566-72) extended that prohibition to bull fights, producing the famous "bull bull," here in a contemporary print. Some animal rights activists consider this bull a foundational document for their movement.

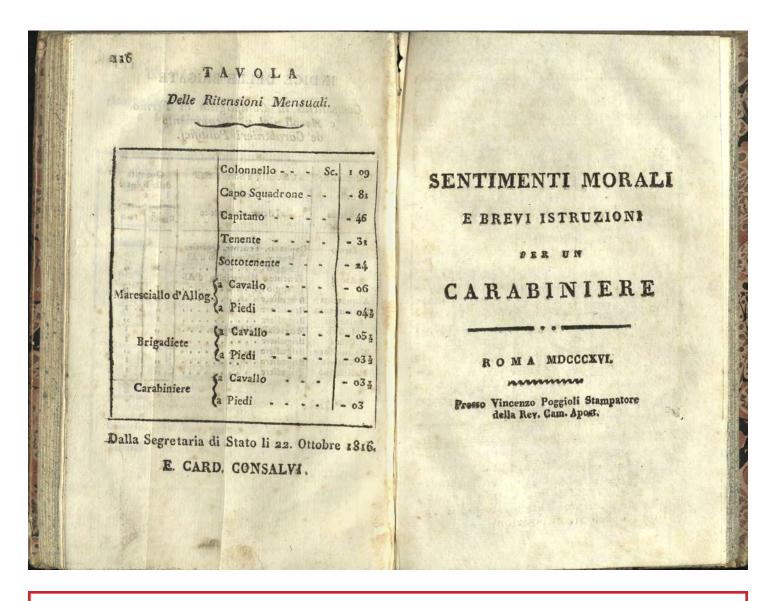
Catholic Church. Bulla S.D.N. Pij Papae V. super prohibitione agitationis taurorum & ferarum. Rome: Heirs of Antonio Blado, 1567.





In addition to governing the universal Church, popes also ruled as sovereigns over the Papal States of central Italy. In that capacity, they issued laws and regulations similar to those proclaimed by secular rulers. Pope Clement VIII (1592-1605) issued detailed regulations for the city of Imola.

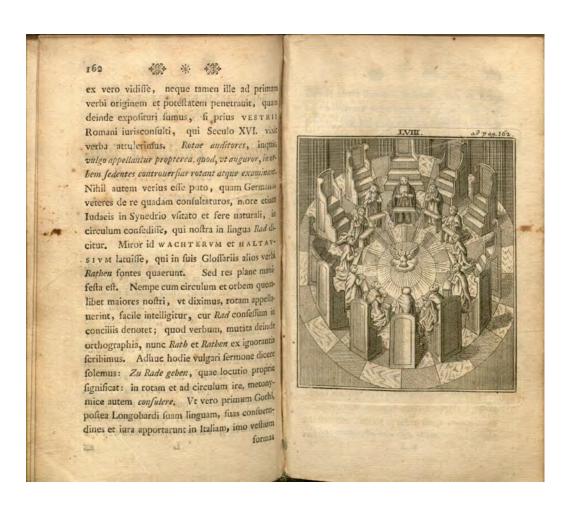
Imola (Italy). Statuti decreti et ordini della citta d'Imola. Imola: Giacinto Massa, 1674.

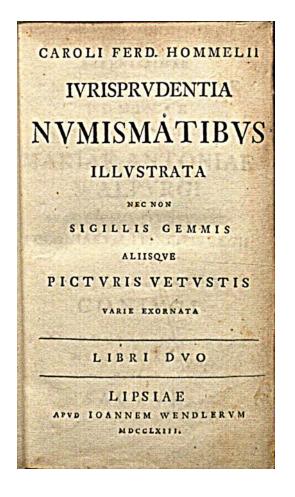


As sovereign of the Papal States, the pope was responsible for local law enforcement. Rome had its own police force. The table shows the monthly pay of the various ranks of *carabinieri* from the *Colonello* (colonel) to the *Piedi* (patrolling policemen) in the pope's capital. The second work bound in the same volume provides moral instruction, reminding po-

lice officers that they are patrolling the sacred center of the Catholic world.

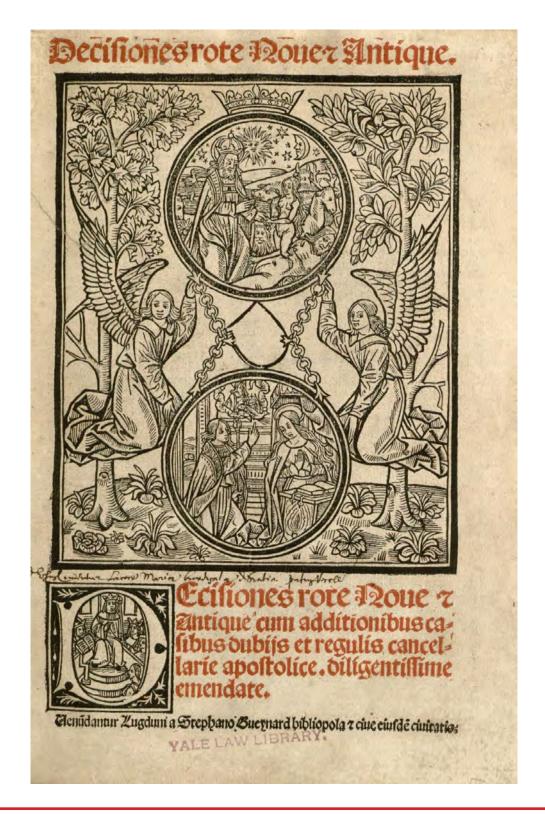
Papal States. Regolamento sulla istituzione del corpo dei carabinieri pontifici. Rome: Vincenzo Poggioli, 1816. [With] Sentimenti morali e brevi istruzioni per un carabiniere. Rome, 1816.





Popes are busy men and it was impossible for them to personally render judgment on every legal case that came to the Papal Curia. They delegated papal judicial powers to a group of assessors, who together formed the court known as the Roman Rota ("wheel"), since they met at a round table.

Karl Ferdinand Hommel. Iurisprudentia numismatibus illustrata. Leipzig: Ioannes Wendler, 1763.



The decisions of the Roman Rota served as precedents that jurists were eager to study, so they were collected in books. The title page of this edition of two fundamental precedent collections, Decisiones Rote nove et antique ("The new and old decisions of the Rota") illustrates two foundational events in human history: God's creation of Eve from Adam's rib and the

Annunciation scene when the Archangel Gabriel tells Mary that she will give birth to Jesus, God himself supervising in the background.

Catholic Church. Rota Romana. *Decisiones Rote nove antique*. Lyon: Stephano Gueynard, 1509.

Drocessus sathane

Spurciffimi Sathanelitigationis ifernalifc neque aceprocuratoris contra genus bumanum Loram do mino nostro Jesu coo agirate Beata virgine Baria eins marre pro nobis aduocara comparente liber felis citer incipit.

Oftis fratres charifimi fliter Sathanas subintrans viscera Jude procurauit q ipe Judas magistru fing phetam quifilium vei e faciebat morti tradifaceret. Host; eti am qualiter genus bumanu ab exozdio mundifuit da natum per inobedientia Eue z poftea fuit faluatu per Dariam. Plam mulier Damnaunt fez Eua. et mulier faluanit fez virgo Daria. Logicanit itaez nequita if fernalis intra fe convocata et aftutia Diabolice fraudis quomodo z qualiter pollet redigere genus bumanus i uam priftinam feruitutem zintuens nullam natione feu natura fraudulentozes existere muliere suggestit ve ozi Pilati suggere pylato ve impediret mozte illim be Unde legis in passione illam vesise pylato. Quid nibi z iusto ili. multa em passa sum videbat Jesum in suite pylato. finita miracula faciencem vicebane bic est enim filius Dei. cum autem eluriebant contrarium dicebant. vnde quandocs vicebat non expedit veiste moziatur. in em Dicebant prophete & oportet vnus mori pro populo d Defcendet ad inferos z porte infermaduerfus cum non prevalebunt. z extrabet captinos quare non expeditio fum mozi.quia folatium est miseris socios babere per narum. vnde in boc dubio existens pylatus dicit. 25 scripsi scripsi et ita Jesus christius fuit crucificus mor tuns ? fepultus. Demum cogitaut pequitia inferna

Contra genus bumanum

fis longo malitioso z ponderoso consilio o procurato rem mitteret ad presentiam Besu edesti bene instructu ad petendu o genus bumanuzin eozum pristinam re digeret serunturem. Hec miremini si pocimus o ad presentiam presentiali petensis p fentiam superioris potest accedere.quia loquimur mo rebumano. aut quia ficut fcitis vbicung fir bemo pa apaliter potencialiter cruciatur. quia eius pena el offit bus ficut lepza lapzofo est infixa. vi tinca tineofo. aut si cut rusticus vel immentu non relevatur pena poztado pondus ferreum in aula regia. fic bemo ybicuca a fua pena non relevatur.

Descuratoz igitur legittime conflitutus affutus et verlutus ad prefentiam poi accedens Dirit. L'restor ce li retere ego fum quidam bamnatus procurator toci nequitie infernalis coram vobis comparens ad agen dum contra genus bumanu. Placeat vobis ad infoze mationem vestram aliquantulume audire. Dixit em osis et. audias me dicere. Respondit demon. Pon de bes die sed ad information entram aliq vobis expla nabo si placet. Dixit dise tu scis q materna causarus nobis veraci affectione pandunt quare a te non deces informari recolimus enim oum mundum perambula

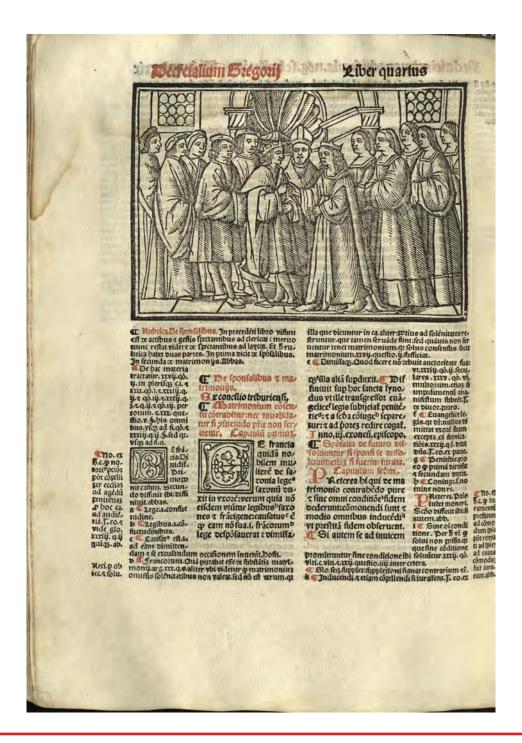
uimus qualiter nos informare volebas oum vixilti.

Die ve lapides isti panes fiant.

(Dixisti quoch q innuerabilia nebis vares si tead ozemus. Demon vixit. tu es insticia z insticiam postus lo. peto genus humanum vocari coram tead certii ofe responsuru mibi procuratori nequitie infernalis z ecce procuratorium men.quo inspecto per dim cus carerer of caldinia vicit domino de vie agar. Respondit demo- ad victraftinam-respondit domino, tu nosti experienta

Even Satan deserved his day in court, and generations of law students were amused and informed by a late-medieval narrative of what happened on that day. Observing the forms of canon law, Satan sued Christ, demanding the return of humankind, which he felt had been unjustly taken from him.

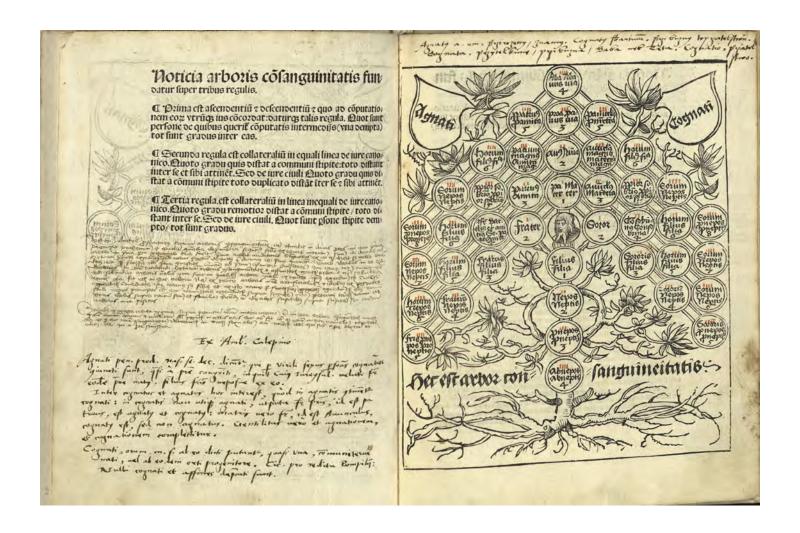
Modus legendi abbreviaturas in utroque jure [with] Processus Sathane infernalis contra genus humanum. Cologne: Cornelius de Zyrickzee, 1505.



When Pope Alexander III (1159-81) in the 1170s defined marriage as the freely given consent of bride and groom, he revolutionized European marriage custom. At least in law, the wishes of parents and feudal lords no longer mattered, and ceremonies, banns, and bride price lost legal relevance. Alexander's innovation continues to inform most modern marriage law. Pope Gregory IX's great law book, the *Liber extra* from 1234, collected papal law from the previous century, including Alexander's ground-breaking decretals. Copies usually contain in the margins a

full commentary authored by the teachers of the Bologna law school. Woodcuts decorate some editions, and this large example signals the beginning of the section on marriage law.

Decretales Domini pape Gregorij noni acurata diligentia novissime quam pluribus cum exemplaribus emendate. Venice: Luca-Antonio Giunta, 1514.



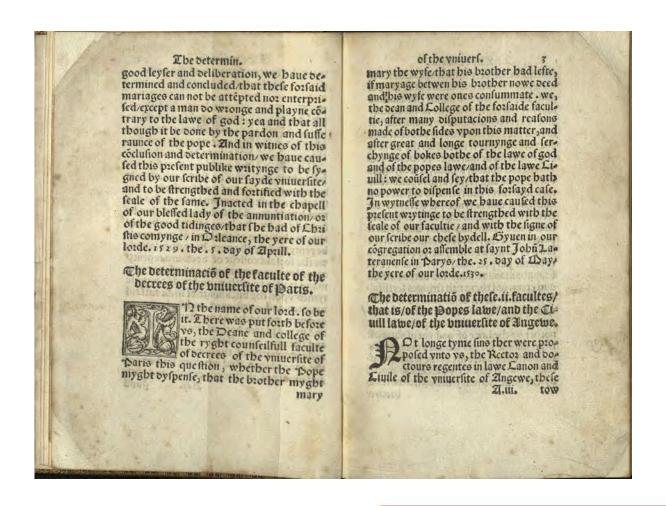
In addition to defining marriage, church law also determined who were prohibited from marrying. Close and not-so-close relatives, including fourth cousins, belonged to the forbidden degrees, which are often pedagogically explained in fictive genealogical trees, known as trees of consanguinity. Giovanni d'Andrea. Lecture super arboribus consanguinitatis et affinitatis. Vienna: Hieronymus Vietor & Johann Singriener, 1513.

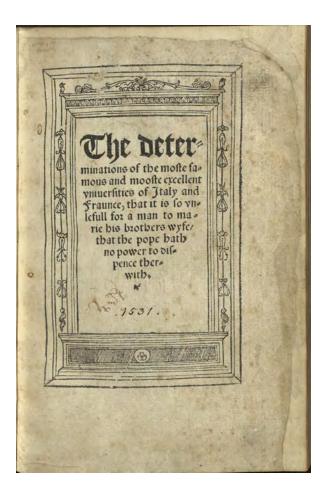
Bummula Raymundi pfurpator facrapren vel matris Sacrilegus:patris percuffor:vel fodomita ·i.adibis .i.fuisti incediario facri loct Pontificem queras:papam fimiferis ignem silefift .i.clerica i.simoniaco · f. lfas apticas ad papa Wel fifalfasti bullam pape simulibis fup.bo d ferum opprimit mulier Qui partum fuffocat:autqueneglererit eius i.ppziū fructū fup talis infans ex negligeria Infantem mater:quocung modo moziatu r cũ violetia fup.p.plem alicuius Si pater aut mater violenter leditur aut si .i.traditione fup.bo petm extra fpem Qui brutale nefas facit aut in perditionem Siproprin domini perimit vel in ecclesia qui sup.in ecclia .i.d facit facrilegiū Sacraledit grauiter: vel quimechatur ville sup pria planguinea .t.carnalit rcognoscit Quimatrem: cognatam polluit: at colorem pcta talia egerüt ·i.epí .1. ptate Prefulis arbitrium licet occulte subeant bi si confessorem preterte possit babere f.pera psbytero de proble proble de la proble .f. ofanguinea yl' amaffa fup.qo pictue .i.ministradis Defacramentis idem intellige bandis De sacramentis idem intellige dandis Dic autor ponitalios casus spectates ad papa vel esm dices q sdam sucrimina do se nullo clerico simpler bo stromittere: s spectat ad papa vel esm. Quon pmi esfacies incestis scomidance so gain aliqui no pot absolut a simplici sacradote. Fie nec homicida nec sacrilegus: nec peusor pose y' mris: nec sodomira: nec peuties clen: nec falsario de fallificat dullas vel sigliti pape: nec mulier si suspectate prosidente in suspectate de cognouit carb nast sua granguinea. Oes tales sa enumerati no psi absolut a simplici sab cerdote: sed debet mitti ad papa vel esm. Et sciedu q illa metra (Hos sua probra vel.) smallo stant in sine. Sic quitor innust tales doctrina peaq nullo velo audire gessioné sue ancille vi amice vel amasse dim sille psie bre aliq ofessos. Et code mo intelligendu est do oid alige sacris oferedes aliq verto illa metra babét circa pacipii: sile q autor que spinitrit notabi

The *Corpus Juris Canonici* (Corpus of Canon Law) was a set of huge books which cost a lot of money to acquire and many years to master. Most simple clerics made do with outlines, abstracts, and versified mnemonics. Choppy hexameters here summarize which sinners (including those who married close relatives) cannot be forgiven by local officials but must seek forgiveness

directly from the pope. The prose commentary provides further detail.

Magister Adam. Summula clarissimi iurisconsultissimique viri Raymundi. Cologne: Johann Knoblauch, 1518.





Under the law accepted everywhere in western Europe, only the pope could allow marriage between the widow of one man and his brother. King Henry VIII of England married the widow of his dead brother Arthur, Catherine of Aragon, after receiving papal permission. But when Catherine failed to produce the male heir Henry VIII desired, he famously divorced her. He claimed that the pope had acted unlawfully when he allowed their marriage. Pamphlets like this one claimed that European law schools had agreed with the king's interpretation of the law.

The determinations of the moste famous and mooste excellent universities of Italy and Fraunce, that it is so unlefull for a man to marie his brothers wyfe, that the Pope hath no power to dispense therwith. London: Thomas Berthelet, 1531. Translated by Thomas Cranmer.



Power to Dissolve

Lawyers and Marriages in the Courts of the Roman Curia

John T. Noonan, Jr.

The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press
Cambridge, Massachusetts 1972

The Pope's exclusive right to dissolve or annul the marriages of Catholics remains a well known and much debated feature of his continued power as a judge, especially given modern secularized society with its easy access to divorce. John T. Noonan, now a senior judge in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, has treated some of these controversies. The photograph opening his book portrays the audience at a lecture given by Cardinal Pietro Gasparri, the main architect of the 1917 Code of Canon Law, which governed Catholic marriages until the 1983 Code. Two future popes are in the audience, Pius XII (A) and John XXIII (B), as well as Stephan Kuttner (C), an eminent expert on medieval canon law, to whom Judge Noonan gave this copy in 1972.

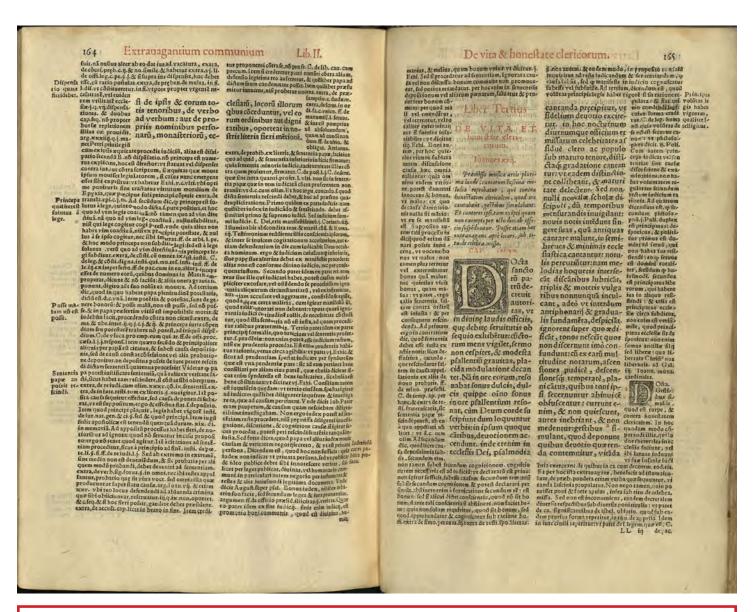
John T. Noonan, Jr. Power to dissolve: lawyers and marriages in the courts of the Roman Curia. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1972.



A jurisprudence of natural rights, or as we would say human rights, was first outlined by the great jurist Gratian, who in the 1130s became the first academic teacher of canon law. In his innovative book The *Concord of Discordant Canons*, more conveniently known as the *Decretum*, he explained what he considered natural rights, common to all human beings irrespective of their religion and ethnicity. Gratian defined

as natural the right to educate children and to acquire the fruits of the earth and its waters. The Venetian publisher Luca-Antonio Giunta illustrated Gratian's arguments with eloquent woodcuts.

Gratian. *Decretum Gratiani*. Venice: Luca-Antonio Giunta, 1514.

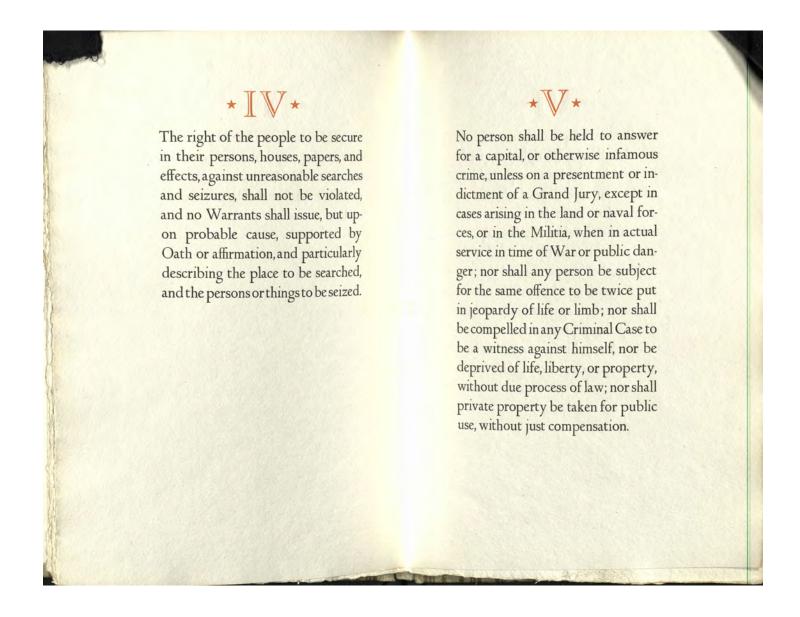


Medieval jurists expanded on Gratian's definition of natural rights, and they were particularly interested in its influence on procedural law. In the early fourteenth century the law teacher and cardinal Johannes Monachus commented at length on a law issued by Pope Boniface VIII, in the process becoming the first jurist ever to state the central principle that a suspect is presumed innocent unless proven guilty, or as he expressed it in Latin: *quilibet presumitur innocens nisi probetur nocens*. It is typical that medieval juristic commentary fills most of the page in ex-

tremely small print, while the text of the law itself occupies only a few lines in the center. The quotation is found on lines 4-5 from the top of the right-hand column on page 164.

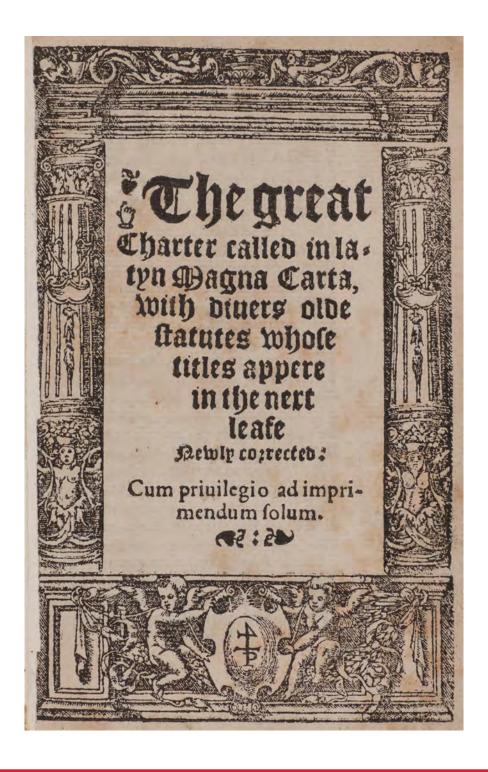
Extravagantes tum viginti Ioannis Vicesimisecundi, tum communes cum glossis et epitomis assuetis, & recognitae, & emendatae. Lyon: Hugues de la Porte & Antoine Vincent, 1558.

tur proponenticotra le, no prose. C. desib. cau. com precum. I tem si crederetur patri narrăti cotra alium, defensio legitima reo auferretur, & quelibet papa ad dictum suum condemnare posset. I tem quilibet prassu mitur innocens, niss probetur nocens. extra, de prasumptio. c. dudum. clesiaru, locoru illorum extra, descrut. in or



The Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects persons from bearing witness against themselves. The intellectual lineage of this idea is found among jurists debating canon law and due process in late medieval European law schools.

Bill of Rights, 1789. San Francisco: Grabhorn Press, 1943.



The pope considered himself the feudal overlord of the secular states of medieval Europe. In a thorny political situation, King John of England accepted this arrangement, agreeing to pay a yearly tax to the papacy. When John approved the Magna Carta in 1215, the pope judged it invalid, since the English barons had forced the king into this agreement in violation of canon law, which in any case should have been submitted to the pope's judgment. The

Great Charter continued, however, to be accepted in England, often reproduced in manuscript and print.

The Great Charter called in Latyn Magna Carta, with divers olde statutes. London: Thomas Petyt, 1542.

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