

Ethics in an Inside Out Culture

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Montana Land Title Association, 11/3/2017

This is not a typical talk on professional ethics, narrowly focused upon norms of behavior specific to the title industry. While that type of presentation is useful and has its place, any discussion of professional ethics proceeds within a broader set of assumptions about the moral life. We live in a time of significant change on that broader level. I want to help us bring those assumptions into the foreground in order to see them clearly and reflect upon our own positions. The fruit of this is a deeper understanding of the culture in which we find ourselves and of the place and importance of ethical norms both within the profession and in our personal lives.

Introduction

Inside out and outside in: the problem of fit and two pictures of the moral life

The cave or the game? Plato vs. Nietzsche on the task before us

An arrow looking for a target: ethics and the shape of human life

Happiness according to Aristotle

Human nature and human happiness

Virtues and human happiness

Happiness according to the utilitarians

Hobbes and the modern picture of ethics

Outside in ethics and the moral life

Inside out ethics and the moral life