

Preface

Reflecting the *zeitgeist* of improved corporate accountability and transparency, the ongoing movement to enhance *corporate social responsibility (CSR)* has permeated entire sectors of society the world over. Despite the apparent ubiquity of *CSR*, however, the corporate laws of many countries remain relatively silent on the issue, omitting to include any explicit provision governing the concept. Partly in response to this lack of legislation, Korean corporate scholars, for example, have attempted to introduce American legal theories, systems, and laws on *CSR* into Korea. Yet traditional Korean jurisprudence provides no defining foundation for *CSR*; indeed, the prevailing view in jurisprudence and scholarship passively resists instituting corporate responsibility into the law.

In response to this jurisprudential and academic shortcoming, and as an example for other countries, this book attempts to provide a comprehensive guide to the relevant legislation and theory on *CSR* in Korean corporate law by employing a comparative study of the relevant American theories and laws. Proceeding from this analysis, I ultimately suggest a legislative blueprint for establishing a foundation to legitimize and effectively implement *CSR*. This book offers readers a comprehensive and in-depth legal analysis of *CSR* by examining the theoretical foundations of corporate governance and its legal mechanism in the United States and Korea. Moreover, it proposes a legislative blueprint for establishing the legal frameworks that might serve to legitimize and effectively implement *CSR* in general.

This book is an updated version of my dissertation submitted in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of *Juris Scientiae Doctoris* at Washington University School of Law in the United States in 2012. It especially benefitted from the numerous individuals at Washington University who inspired and supported my research. Specifically, I thank the members of the dissertation committee, John Owen Haley, Gerrit De Geest, and Frances H. Foster, who contributed significantly to my work with their insightful comments and suggestions. I am especially obliged to Professor Foster, my doctoral advisor and dissertation supervisor, for her devotion to this work and for her advancement of my scholarship.

My sincerest thanks as well to my parents and I would like to dedicate this book to them. Finally, I wish to thank my husband, Jaewon Chang, for his loving support and encouragement.

Greater Noida, India, November 2014

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Legal Perspectives on Corporate Social Responsibility
Lessons from the United States and Korea

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2015, IX, 147 p. 1 illus., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-81-322-2385-6