

2000

## Public Service, Ethics, and Constitutional Practice

James E. Moliterno

---

### Repository Citation

Moliterno, James E., "Public Service, Ethics, and Constitutional Practice" (2000). *Faculty Publications*. 910.  
<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/facpubs/910>

Copyright c 2000 by the authors. This article is brought to you by the William & Mary Law School Scholarship Repository.  
<https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/facpubs>

Rohr, John A. *Public Service, Ethics, and Constitutional Practice*.

Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1999. Pp. 177. \$29.95 (cloth); \$15.95 (paper).

In this themed collection of essays, John A. Rohr brings together materials illustrating his lifelong project directed at linking ethical standards of public servants with Constitutional principles. Rohr has devoted substantial energy during his distinguished career to advancing the argument that the central principles governing the ethical behavior of public servants are derived from the Constitution. The essays presented in this volume are drawn from his work over the past quarter century, then organized into themed chapters.

The volume is quite useful in its collection of these materials to tell the story of Rohr's theory of public administration in a single place. The essays play off one another, connect with one another, and present a highly coherent package and picture of the theory.

The theory itself is appealing, creating a framework for decision making by public servants faced with the dilemmas of their calling, especially the issues of split devotion to the executive and the legislative branches. Rohr's essays dealing with separation of powers are especially insightful. The entire notion of a framework, grounded in fundamental principles to assist in the analysis of the quality and effect of basic regulations of public servants (e.g., financial disclosure, conflicts of interest), appeals to all who desire some depth and texture to discussions of such simple-on-the-surface provisions.

J. E. M.