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Law works expressively by allowing people to coordinate and by signa Economists have often credited deterrence (saying that legal sanctions influence behavior) and sociologists often point to legitimacy (the idea that people obey the law because they see it as a legitimate authority).

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Law's expressive powers can increase efficiency, for example, by identifying optimal enforcement strategies; a sensitivity to domains in which law can act as a focal point allows officials to determine where additional resources are best deployed. 37 × 37.

## Richard H. McAdams, The Expressive Powers of Law - Harvard ...

The expressive power of law leads to norms legitimacy. Prosocial behaviors are mainly studied in the literature in economics and psychology, especially in behavioral and experimental economics.

## The Expressive Powers of Law: Theories and Limits ...

McAdams' book is a terrific exploration of how law helps maintain order and shapes behavior--or, fails to do these things--based not simply on its coercive or punitive authority but on its "expressive power." It's a sophisticated account yet easier and more fun to read than academic journal prose.

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## The Expressive Powers of Law — Richard H. McAdams ...

Richard McAdams has published a new book called The Expressive Powers of Law. It is in some ways a throwback to the earlier literature. It puts a great deal of emphasis on the way that "focal points" can structure people's behavior when people are otherwise trying to coordinate with each other.

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Professor McAdams is the Bernard D. Meltzer Professor of Law. He writes on criminal law and procedure, social norms, the expressive function of law, inequality, and law and literature. He is the author of The Expressive Powers of Law & Social Sciences, the editorial board of the Annual Review of Law and Social ...

# Richard H. McAdams | University of Chicago Law School

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