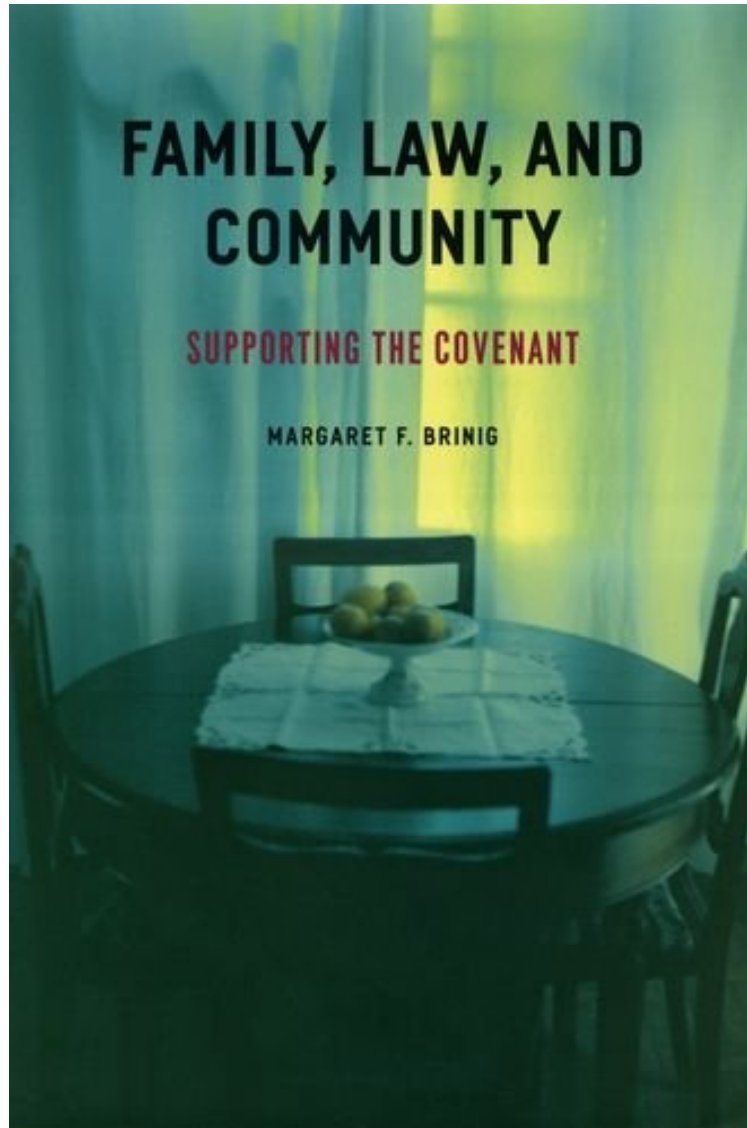


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Margaret F. Brinig

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Margaret F. Brinig : Family, Law, and Community: Supporting the Covenant before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Family, Law, and Community: Supporting the Covenant:

In the wake of vast social and economic changes, the nuclear family has lost its dominance, both as an ideal and in practice. Some welcome this shift, while others see civilization itself in peril but few move beyond ideology to develop

a nuanced understanding of how families function in society. In this provocative book, Margaret F. Brinig draws on research from a variety of disciplines to offer a distinctive study of family dynamics and social policy. Concentrating on legal reform, Brinig examines a range of subjects, including cohabitation, custody, grandparent visitation, and domestic violence. She concludes that conventional legal reforms and the social programs they engender ignore social capital: the trust and support given to families by a community. Traditional families generate much more social capital than nontraditional ones, Brinig concludes, which leads to clear rewards for the children. Firmly grounded in empirical research, *Family, Law, and Community* argues that family policy can only be effective if it is guided by an understanding of the importance of social capital and the advantages held by families that accrue it.

This fine book shows why Margaret Brinig is America's leading family-law scholar. She anchors her arguments in both sound legal scholarship and her own high-quality empirical research. Her work in this book corrects individualistic trends in family law theory towards the dogma of private ordering and restores the role that law can play in creating trust and community support for today's troubled families. A great book.