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978-0-521-69414-8 - The Rise of the Unelected: Democracy and the New
Separation of Powers

Frank Vibert

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The Rise of the Unelected

Unelected bodies, such as independent central banks, economic regulators, risk managers and auditors, have become a worldwide phenomenon. Democracies are increasingly turning to them to demarcate boundaries between the market and the state, to resolve conflicts of interest and to allocate resources, even in sensitive ethical areas such as those involving privacy or biotechnology. This book examines the challenge that unelected bodies present to democracy and argues that, taken together, such bodies should be viewed as a new branch of government with their own sources of legitimacy and held to account through a new separation of powers. Vibert suggests that such bodies help promote a more informed citizenry because they provide a more trustworthy and reliable source of information for decisions. This book will be of interest to specialists and general readers with an interest in modern democracy as well as policy-makers, think tanks and journalists.

FRANK VIBERT is the co-founder and Director of the European Policy Forum in Pall Mall. He has previously worked as a Senior Adviser at the World Bank and a Senior Fellow at the UNU-WIDER Institute. He writes extensively on regulatory, institutional and constitutional topics and his previous publications include *Europe Simple, Europe Strong: The Future of European Governance* (2001) and *Europe: A Constitution for the Millennium* (1995).

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press,
New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521694148

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First published 2007

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 978-0-521-87239-3 hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-69414-8 paperback

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To My Parents

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Acknowledgements

I would particularly like to thank Professor Richard Rose, University of Aberdeen, for his encouragement and guidance; Professor Edward Page (Beatrice and Sydney Webb Professor), London School of Economics, for a very helpful set of comments; Professor Claudio Radaelli, University of Exeter, who kindly organised a seminar at the university's Centre for Regulatory Governance to discuss the themes of the book; and Dr Mark Thatcher, Reader in Public Administration and Public Policy at the London School of Economics, for his comments. Professor Dirk J. Wolfson, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, also provided a helpful and challenging set of comments.

I would also like to thank the Progress Foundation and its Board Member Dr Gerhard Schwarz who organised a colloquium on Judicial Independence in Schwarzenberg 8–11 July 2004. The colloquium under the guidance of Professor Dr Stefan Voigt was most helpful to me in writing what is said in this book about the rule of law and the basis for an independent judiciary.

I have deliberately sought comments from knowledgeable observers outside the academic community. Those who kindly commented included Martin Summers and Paul Arlman. Cambridge University Press has been most helpful in steering the book through the publication process, and thanks in particular to Jacqueline French for her copy-editing skills. Finally, I would like to thank both Sarah Summers and Diana Munoz for their help and research assistance.