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.

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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.

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