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JURISPRUDENCE, VOLUME  
I. THE ENFORCEMENT  
OF DECREES IN EQUITY**

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**CHARLES ANDREWS HUSTON**

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HARVARD STUDIES IN  
JURISPRUDENCE

VOLUME I

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**THE  
ENFORCEMENT OF DECREES  
IN EQUITY**

BY

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To ROSCOE POUND  
THIS ESSAY IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED





## PREFATORY NOTE

THIS essay is written primarily to advocate an enlargement of the equity powers of American courts which will enable them to give a real effect to their decrees; for example, to transfer titles directly instead of by ordering a litigant to make the transfer. This is no innovation. Such power exists in more or less perfect form in most of the states of the Union. Its operation is not a matter of conjecture, but can be observed over a period of more than a century of practice, and in a wide variety of social conditions. But some states, and it is believed the Federal jurisdictions also, lack this power. Moreover it nowhere exists fully for all cases and its need has become more apparent to-day because of a definite trend in our legislation aiming at a restriction of the contempt process which constitutes the original, and still here and there the only, enforcing agency of our courts of equity.

But although the primary purpose of the essay is thus to urge a specific reform of happily no very extended character, the treatment given the subject has aimed at considering it in the light of its wider juristic aspects. It is regarded, in the first place, as a phase of the tendency to enlarge the remedial powers of our courts, to make their administration of relief more accurate and more effective than is possible now, where specific relief, either reparatory or preventive, is regarded as on the whole merely auxiliary to the substitutional relief of damages. And, in the second place, it is regarded as a part of the movement which has gradually attenuated the function of a trustee or other holder of the legal title to property, until to-day the beneficial owner who holds the equitable

title is all but recognized as the real owner, his rights good against all the world, subject only to a power in his representative, the holder of the legal title, to cut off his rights by a transfer to a bona fide purchaser.

Not only for the suggestion of the field of investigation traversed by this discussion but for constant inspiration during the progress of the inquiry and for unlimited generosity in concrete suggestion and criticism the author is indebted to his friend and teacher, Professor Roscoe Pound of Harvard University. And to his friend and fellow student, Professor George Luther Clark of the University of Missouri, the author wishes also to make grateful acknowledgment of his generous interest and helpful criticisms.

## CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFATORY NOTE . . . . .	vii
TABLE OF CASES AND AUTHORITIES . . . . .	xi
CHAPTER I	
INTRODUCTION — THESIS AND THEORETICAL ARGUMENT . . . . .	3
CHAPTER II	
STATE OF ANGLO-AMERICAN LAW . . . . .	13
SECTION 1. EXISTING LEGISLATION . . . . .	13
SECTION 2. ENFORCEMENT OF DECREES IN THE FEDERAL COURTS . . . . .	25
CHAPTER III	
STATE OF THE CIVIL LAW AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBJECT IN ROMAN LAW . . . . .	39
CHAPTER IV	
ARGUMENT FROM PARTICULAR APPLICATIONS — THE NEED OF LEGIS- LATION AND ITS VALUE . . . . .	54
CHAPTER V	
SKETCH OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF EQUITABLE PROCEDURE IN REM . . . . .	71
CHAPTER VI	
THE DEVELOPMENT OF EQUITABLE INTERESTS INTO REAL INTERESTS . . . . .	87
SECTION 1. INTRODUCTORY AND HISTORICAL . . . . .	87
SECTION 2. THE DOCTRINE OF THE BONA FIDE PURCHASER . . . . .	114
SECTION 3. THE DOCTRINE OF THE SUPERIORITY OF THE LEGAL TITLE . . . . .	131
SECTION 4. THE PRESENT TREND OF THE LAW . . . . .	148
APPENDIX OF STATUTES . . . . .	157
INDEX . . . . .	185