PREFACE

This volume of NOMOS—the fifty-second in the series—emerged from papers and commentaries given at the annual meeting of the American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy (ASPLP) in Boston on August 28–29, 2008, held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. Our topic, “Evolution and Morality,” was selected by the Society’s membership.

The conference consisted of three panels, corresponding to the first three parts of this volume: (1) “Naturalistic Ethics”; (2) “Law and Behavioral Morality”; and (3) “Biopolitical Science.” The volume includes revised versions of the principal papers delivered at that conference by Philip Kitcher, Nita A. Farahany, and Larry Arnhart. It also includes essays that developed out of the original commentaries on those papers by Jonathan Beckwith and Corey A. Morris-Singer, Robin Bradley Kar, Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, Jennifer L. Culbert, Daniel Lord Smail, and Richard A. Richards, as well as an additional commentary by Amanda C. Pustilnik. For the published volume, we added a fourth part on a topic that lies near the surface in many analyses of evolution, morality, and sociobiology—nature, conservatism, and progressivism—and included essays by Elizabeth F. Emens and Linda C. McClain. We are grateful to all of these authors for the thoughtfulness of their contributions.

Thanks are also due to the editors and production team at New York University Press and particularly to Ilene Kalish, Despina Papazoglou Gimbel, Aiden Amos, and Alexia Traganas. On our own behalf and on behalf of the Society, we wish to express deep gratitude for the Press’s ongoing support for the series and the tradition of interdisciplinary scholarship that it represents.
Finally, thanks to our assistants. Joel Parker of University of Texas, as managing editor, ably assisted Levinson in organizing the conference. Courtney Gesualdi, Eric Lee, Natalie Logan, Emily Strauss, and Christine Renworth, Fleming’s excellent research assistants at Boston University, and Danielle Amber Papa, his highly capable and extraordinarily efficient and resourceful secretary, provided critical assistance during the editorial and production phases of the volume.

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*Austin, Texas, May 2011*