Book Review

Reamer, F. G. (2018). *Social work values and ethics.* (5th ed.). New York, NY: Columbia University Press.
Reviewed by Stephen M. Marson, Ph.D., Editor, *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*

FULL DISCLOSURE: The author of the book being reviewed, Frederic G. Reamer, is a member of the JSWVE editorial board.

Two years ago, I completed a statistical analysis of patterns found within the articles published in the *Journal of Social Work Values and Ethics*. By doing so, I learned a great deal about trends and interests among our authors and readers. One fact that caught my attention included the pattern of authors being cited. With no doubt, Frederic Reamer was the most-cited author found within the reference pages among the published articles. No other author was a close second. Thus, I can reasonably conclude that Frederic Reamer is likely to be the most-read author in the arena of social work values and ethics.

Because this highly specialized book survived five editions, we have clear evidence of Reamer's profound influence. With CSWE's emphasis on the instruction of social work values and ethics, it is apparent that his new edition will continue to be adopted among social work academic programs across the United States. On January 1, 2018, the National Association of Social Workers revised its Code of Ethics. As a result, a new edition of Reamer's book was necessary to provide a basis for understanding the changes in the code. Thus, the central emphasis for this 5th edition focuses on the implications of the revised NASW Code of Ethics. Most of the changes address new technologies.

More specifically, technologies related to social work practice and education that Reamer addresses include:

- delivery of services to clients remotely (video, avatar, text, email, telephone)
- communication with clients
- locating information about clients (online searches)
- managing and storing information about clients (e.g., electronic records)
- administration of programs
- advocacy

The catalyst for the necessity of updating the NASW Code of Ethics is the lightning-fast changes of technology. The central ethical issue related to technology is "competence." Technology is changing so rapidly, what is necessary to understand and know today can easily become obsolete tomorrow. The most vivid example is encryption of confidential data transmitted online. If a social worker employed cutting-edge technology from two years ago, ethical standards would deem the practitioner incompetent for handling confidential information in such a haphazard manner. Reamer addresses this type of problem and the rapid changes.

Reamer's 5th edition will continue to be a staple in social work courses that address the ethics. In addition, I strongly recommend that all academic libraries that serve social work degree programs adopt this valuable book.