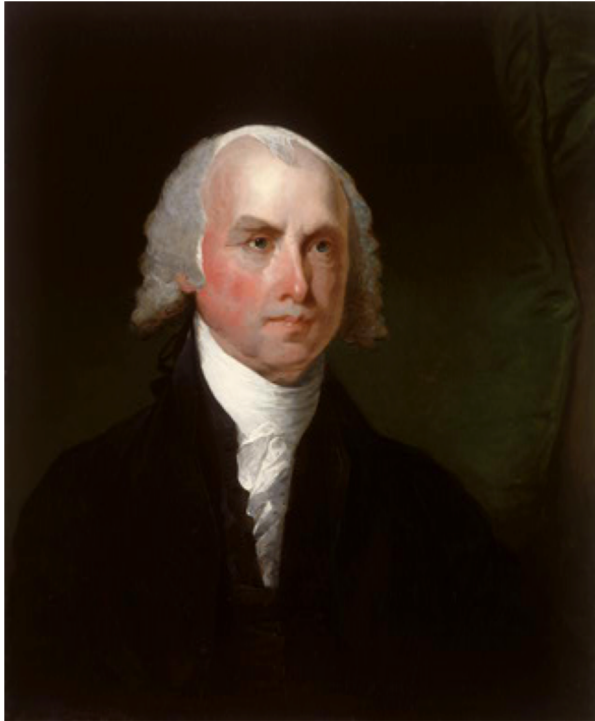


Training for Legislators:

The Fundamentals of Natural Law and Human Dignity



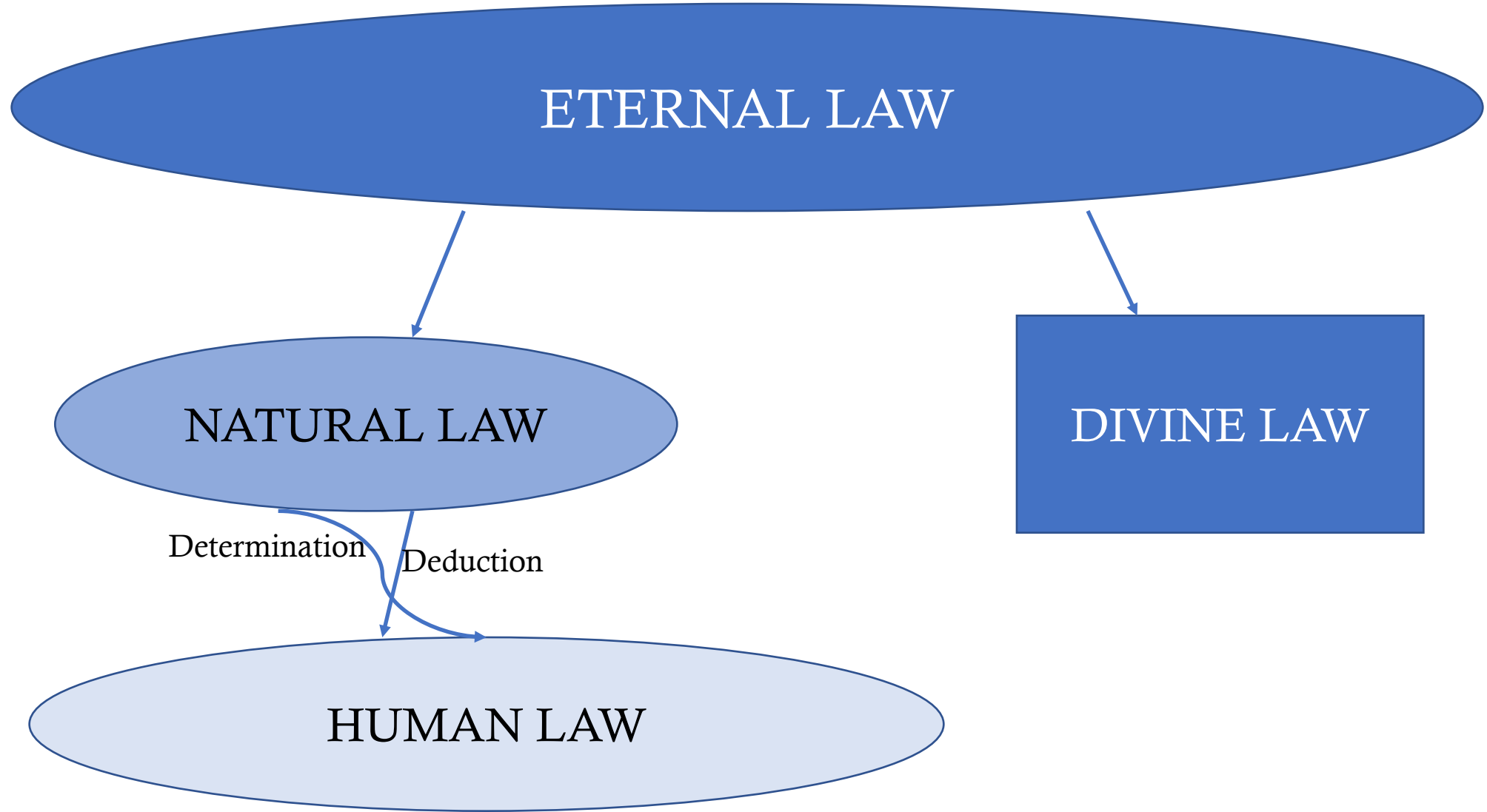
James R. Stoner, Jr., *Louisiana State University*

A Brief Intellectual History of Natural Law

- Classical Origins: *Nomos* versus *Physis* \Rightarrow “Man is by nature a political animal”
 - Virtue and Happiness
 - Natural Right
- Thomistic Natural Law
 - Reason and Revelation
 - State and Church
- Hobbesian/Lockean Natural Rights
 - The Priority of Natural Rights to Natural Law
 - The Right of Property
- The American Tradition
 - The Declaration and the Revolution
 - Slavery and Abolition
 - Economic Liberty (and “Natural Law Due Process”)
- The Rejection of Natural Law
 - Historicism
 - Autonomy Liberalism

Thomistic Natural Law

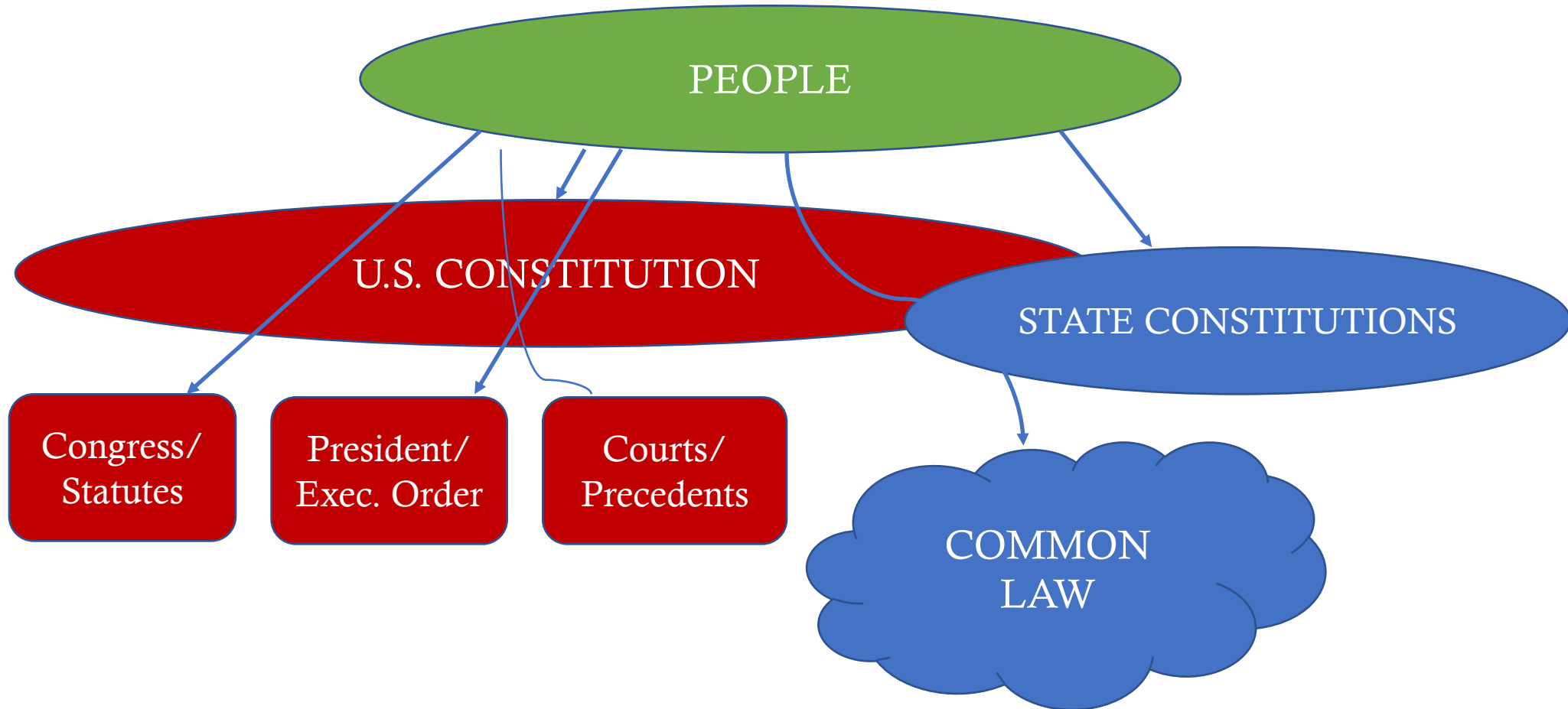
- Definition of Law:
 - Precept of practical reason
 - For the common good
 - Made by the people or one who has care of the people
 - Promulgated
- Kinds of Law:
 - Eternal Law (God's Providence)
 - Natural Law (Human Reason and Natural Inclinations)
 - Self-preservation }
 - Sex & Education of offspring } Do good, avoid evil
 - Know God & Live in Society }
 - Human Law (Positive Law)
 - Deduction
 - Determination
 - Divine Law (Ten Commandments & Gospel)



Thomistic Natural Law and Human Law

- Effect of Human Law: To make men good
- Human Law cannot repress all vices, but should prescribe acts of all virtues
- Human Law binds men in conscience
 - but an unjust law is not a law
 - but cannot be always disobeyed
- Human Law can be changed (but not too readily)
 - when reason advances
 - when conditions change
- Custom can obtain the force of law

The American Constitutional Order as Thomistic Human Law



Natural Law Issues in American Society Today

- Rights of the Person: Life, Liberty, Integrity, Dignity
- The Law of the Family
- Property rights and the General Welfare
- Solidarity & Subsidiarity: Powers and Limits of the State
- Religious Liberty & the Freedom of the Church