

# **Cicero's *Ius Gentium***

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This Paper examines why *ius gentium* is binding in Cicero's theory of law. In particular, Cicero's works, especially *De republica*, *De legibus*, and *De officiis*, privileged a universality that unites all natural persons independent of the posited or civil laws of the state. Cicero's theory of *ius gentium* is complicated because he suggests that there should be exceptions to *ius gentium*. The Paper, after identifying those exceptions, will identify four problematic interpretations which have been offered Cicero's concept of *ius gentium*: common domestic legal principles, customary norms, nature and the 'law of the People. The Paper offers a further reading: namely, that the *ius gentium* constitutes the foundational principles of an international legal order.

**Title of Paper: Cicero's *Ius Gentium***

***Language: English***

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