The three main types of justice are legal justice, commutative justice, and distributive justice.

Distributive justice refers to the fair allocation of resources and opportunities within a society.

The concept of distributive justice is exemplified in recent years by certain U.S. states legalizing marijuana and taking stances on other issues that go against federal laws. These states are essentially practicing a form of local or municipal justice that shields their citizens from national laws they view as unfair (Byars & Stanberry, 2019).

For example, some states are not supporting or funding the enforcement efforts of federal agencies when it comes to drugs, immigration, gun control, and asset forfeiture. By refusing to assist federal authorities, these states can reject federal mandates and exercise more autonomy over policies that impact their own populations. This represents a type of distributive justice administered at the local level rather than the national level.

Debates over distributive justice and related policies designed to help the disadvantaged often raise several concerns. One issue that frequently arises is the cost of such programs and whether they place an unfair financial burden on some groups to support others. For instance, some argue that certain tax structures or social programs amount to wealth redistribution or force some people to pay for benefits enjoyed by others. Additionally, there are disagreements over the efficiency and effectiveness of various assistance programs related to distributive justice goals. Some argue that funds are wasted through bureaucracy, fraud, or failure to achieve intended outcomes. There can also be criticism about fairness in terms of who pays taxes to fund programs versus who qualifies for benefits. For example, some may pay taxes to fund social security throughout their working lives but die before receiving any payments. Finally, debates over distributive justice often highlight concerns about the unintended incentives created by income assistance or welfare programs, such as discouraging recipients from finding jobs or

advancing economically. In summary, common concerns include costs, efficiency, fairness in qualification/disbursement, perverse incentives for economic advancement, and disagreements over the appropriate role of government.

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