

## SUMMARY

In this book the extent to which legal administrative decisions can be generated and judged by machines is explored. An actual machine that reconstructs more than 400 probation decisions has been built. This machine also gives indications about the legal quality of the decisions that were given by the secretary of justice.

A fundamental problem to be encountered while trying to build legal knowledge systems relates to the flexibility of legal knowledge. Static theories may be translated to formal systems and can sometimes be realized on computers. Legal knowledge is essentially not static. In this train of thought it is necessary to find a static theory (that may be translated to a computer program) that describes the growth of legal knowledge.

A.D. de Groot has formulated such a theory for the growth of empirical knowledge. With regard to his methodological notions I have found some striking analogies in prominent concepts of dutch administrative law. These concepts can be translated to a chain of formal systems that can change each other in a controlled way. I call such a chain of programs (that can be written in Prolog) an informal system, because relevant questions of consistency cannot be answered in a formal way.

The knowledge system built in accordance with these notions was able to point out several legally unsound decisions over a period in which the dutch legal concept of probation changed.

A.H.J. Schmidt

# PALLAS EX MACHINA

**Informele systemen in verband met het recht**

In dit boek wordt nagegaan in hoeverre administratiefrechtelijke besluitvorming van de overheid kan worden beoordeeld door een automaat. Een belangrijk probleem bij het maken van juridische kennis- of expertsystemen is de flexibiliteit van die kennis.

Het is namelijk niet goed mogelijk om de consistentie van automatiseringstoepassingen te bewaren wanneer ze flexibel worden gemaakt.

In dit boek worden de algemene beginselen van behoorlijk bestuur gebruikt om de ontwikkeling van een administratiefrechtelijke regeling te sturen. Die beginselen vertonen een zekere analogie met normatieve elementen van een zienswijze op empirische methodologie.

koninklijke vermande bv

