Existence and Validity

The distinction between existent and nonexistence objects is generally applied to objects of (objectual) mental attitudes such as imagination and thought, which then may have or fail to have mind-independent existence.  In contrast to that, there is a distinctive way of being that applies only to certain mind-dependent 'abstract artifacts', such as laws, claims, and offers, namely validity. A law, claim, or offer owes its existence to an act - of declaring or passing, of claiming, or of offering - and it may endure beyond that act. But even though there is a sense in which such an entity may be 'around' for some time, its continued existence in a stricter sense amounts to its validity. I will discuss the different sources of validity as a mode of being.