James C. Hathaway’s pioneering look at the rights and plight of refugees, *The Rights of Refugees under International Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2005), has been awarded the Certificate of Merit from the American Society of International Law. The award, first given in 1952, recognizes “the most distinguished work in the field of international law in the current year or in the immediately preceding year.”

Hathaway, the James E. and Sarah A. Degan Professor of Law, is director of the Law School’s Refugee and Asylum Law Program. Other Michigan Law scholars who have won the award include Harold Jacobson (2004), Christine Chinkin (2001), Steven Ratner (1998), Bruno Simma (1996) and Alex Aleinikoff (1986).

Combining legal and theoretical scholarship with real-world case histories, *The Rights of Refugees* provides the first comprehensive analysis of refugees’ human rights under the UN’s Refugee Convention. Ten years in the writing, the book appears as many governments around the world are wrestling with the traditional idea of assimilating refugees into their countries’ populations, granting refugees freedom of movement, social welfare benefits or other similar rights, or, indeed, whether to take in refugees at all.

Coupling such questions with the norms of basic international human rights, Hathaway uses the result to examine some of the world’s most challenging refugee protection questions.


Santacroce co-authors handbook for local government officials

Clinical Assistant Professor David Santacroce has co-authored a new handbook to help officials of local governments write contracts that improve the odds that companies receiving economic development incentives keep their promises to create jobs and other community benefits—or pay taxpayers back.

The handbook, *The Ideal Deal: How Local Governments Can Get More for Their Economic Development Dollar*, has been released by Good Jobs First, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization that promotes good state and local economic development practices, and the Center for Urban Economic Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Santacroce’s co-author is Rachel Weber, an associate professor in the Urban Planning and Policy Program at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Weber has done extensive surveying of localities and written about best incentive-deal practices; Santacroce has litigated and written about legal remedies for failed incentive deals. Their handbook provides step-by-step guidance through the elements of contracts that treat a public incentive package as a quid pro quo for public benefits.

“No one likes to spend too much on a deal, and no one wants to sue if a deal doesn’t pan out,” Santacroce explained. “Deliberate procedures and thorough contracts minimize the odds that problems will develop.”

The handbook is available in PDF form via the Good Jobs First Web site: www.goodjobsfirst.org.