McCruden’s *Buying Social Justice* wins ASIL top award


ASIL’s award recognizes McCrudden’s “preeminent contribution to creative scholarship.” Certificates of Merit also are given to authors for work “in a specialized area of international law, and/or high technical craftsmanship.”

In *Buying Social Justice*, McCrudden, professor of human rights law and fellow of Lincoln College at Oxford University, examines government buying policies and actions in a number of countries. He concludes that public procurement practice can contribute to social justice, despite many economists’ claims that it is inefficient and many lawyers’ charges that it restricts competition.

“*Buying Social Justice* argues that European and international legal regulation of procurement has become an important means of accentuating the positive and eliminating the negative in both the social and economic uses of procurement,” according to his publisher.

The 736-page book also compares policies and results in the United States, United Kingdom, Ireland, and South Africa.

Other Michigan Law faculty members who have won the award include


Croley examines interplay of regulation and public interests

**In *Regulation and Public Interests* (Princeton University Press, 2008), Professor Steven Croley, a specialist in regulatory policy and administrative law, explores the tension between our reliance upon regulatory institutions, on the one hand, and simultaneous mistrust of regulatory bodies, on the other. As he notes in his introduction, “The modern United States of America is thoroughly committed to regulatory government in actual practice, and yet rhetorically and ideologically that commitment seems awkward, if not hypocritical.”

“To be clear from the start,” he advises, “the thesis of this book is not that regulatory government works well all or even most of the time. It aims neither to foster complacency towards regulatory reform nor to apologize for the regulatory status quo. The more modest ambition of this effort, rather, is to show that cynical but commonplace accounts of the regulatory state have enjoyed an influence that far exceeds their conceptual rigor and empirical support: Regulatory failure is not inevitable.”

Over the course of 379 well-documented pages, Croley discusses several case studies of regulation which, he argues, vindicates some faith in regulatory government. His case studies include the U.S. Food and Drug Administration’s tobacco initiative, the U.S. Forest Service’s roadless policy for National Forests, and the Environmental Protection Agency’s ozone and particulate matter rules, among several others.

“Croley has done much more than write a lucid and learned book,” Professor Elizabeth Magill of the University of Virginia Law School notes in the book review edition of *Michigan Law Review* this year (106.6 *Michigan Law Review* 1021, April 2008). “His analysis of the behavior of agencies is an important contribution to our understanding of government regulation. Croley’s foundational argument is that agencies have a great deal of autonomy. The argument is sophisticated, creative, and compelling.”