

## BOOKS RECEIVED / LIVRES REÇUS\*

F. BOOS / M. BONEFELD / H.-J. SCHLIMPERT / R. SCHLÜNDER / S. SIEWERT, *Das modifizierte Ertragswertverfahren im Familien-, Erb- und Steurrecht*, C.H. Beck, Munich, 2024, xxiv, 184 pp., ISBN: 978-3-406-81772-4

The modified income approach has gained increasing relevance in the valuation of owner-managed small and medium-sized companies, especially in legal contexts such as family or inheritance disputes. This book aims to make this technically complex method accessible to practitioners by presenting it in a structured way. It combines legal analysis, valuation standards and economic reasoning in a thorough and practical manner.

Particular attention is given to aspects often underexplored in valuation literature such as goodwill, reproduction periods, challenges involved in incorporating personal or location-based factors into business valuations. The integration of family and inheritance law perspectives makes this book useful for lawyers involved in litigation or succession planning.

While the content is highly specialized, the clarity of the structure and interdisciplinary approach make it valuable beyond expert circles. It offers a reliable reference for those engaged in business valuation within legal context, particularly where subjectivity and legal uncertainty tend to complicate matters.

*L. Bretzer*

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\* The following EPLO collaborators have contributed to this issue's section on Books Received: R. Andrizzi, University of Bologna, Italy; L. Bretzer, Sorbonne University, France; S. Butiu, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Bucharest, Romania; M. Danet, Sciences Po Rennes, France; T. Fox, Northeastern University, USA; J. Kelly, Northeastern University, USA; A. Pantazi, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; A. Toso, Leiden University College, The Netherlands; M. Triban, University of Trento, Italy.

G. GORNIG, *Völkerrecht*, Lehr und Studienbuch, C.H. Beck, 2023, lxxxiii, 1936 pp., ISBN: 978-3-406-79873-3

Gilbert Gornig's *Völkerrecht* provides a thorough and well-organized overview of public international law as it is applied in German-speaking countries. Addressing both the foundational structures of the field such as its sources, subjects, and the law of treaties, it also covers more specific areas, including the functioning of international organizations, state succession, and the interaction between international and domestic legal systems. The book further explores various thematic areas, including maritime and space law, environmental and climate law, cultural heritage protection, human rights, and the law of armed conflict.

Legal developments are situated within broader historical and political contexts, with a focus on Germany and neighboring jurisdictions. Contemporary events, most notably the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, are analyzed from the perspective of international law.

Designed as both a textbook and a reference work, *Völkerrecht* is intended for law students, academics and practitioners in diplomacy, public administration, and related fields, who are seeking a clear and comprehensive account of international law.

L. Bretzer

C. HAHM, *The Constitution of South Korea: A Contextual Analysis*, Hart Publishing, 2024, xxxiii, 288 pp., ISBN: 978-1-50991-918-5

Chaihark Hahm's *The Constitution of South Korea* offers a rich, contextual analysis of the country's constitutional development. Hahm traces Korea's political evolution beginning with its feudal past, long before it emerged as a unified nation-state, and explains how early governing structures shaped later constitutional reforms. He takes a careful, chronological approach, showing how each historical era contributed to what eventually became the modern democratic republic of Korea.

Hahm vividly illustrates the Constitution's journey while clearly outlining the governmental structures and regulatory mechanisms that enforce checks and balances. His analysis does not stop at institutional design; he also foregrounds the social and political forces that have pushed the Constitution to adapt over time.

Throughout the book, Hahm highlights key formative moments: coups, revolutions, popular uprisings, and democratic movements, that continue to define and redefine South Korea's constitutional identity. Moving from dynasty to colonization to contemporary democracy, he breaks down the complexities of the Korean constitutional order and situates them within both domestic dynamics and the influence of external powers. By doing so, Hahm provides readers with a nuanced understanding of how Korea's political system took shape and how it continues to evolve today.

*J. Kelly*

W. HAKENBERG, *Europarecht*, 10<sup>th</sup> ed., Vahlen Jura, Lehrbuch, 2024, xx, 277 pp., ISBN: 978-3-8006-7277-6

Hakenberg's *Europarecht* provides a clear and comprehensive overview of European Union law, with a focus on economic integration and institutional structures. It explores the foundations of the EU legal system, the freedoms of the internal market, and key policy areas such as competition, external relations, and climate policy. In its 10<sup>th</sup> edition, the book also addresses recent developments, including the war in Ukraine, climate change, and the 2024 European elections, highlighting how these events are shaping the evolution of EU law. A distinctive feature of this edition is the inclusion of forward-looking "2050 Scenarios," which invite readers to critically reflect on the long-term trajectory of EU legal development.

Enhanced by diagrams, case studies, and recent CJEU rulings, *Europarecht* makes complex legal issues more accessible, serving as a valuable resource for students, scholars, and practitioners alike. Timely and well-structured, it offers a significant contribution to ongoing debates on the future of the EU legal framework.

*L. Bretzer*

M. HERZOG-EVANS / J. THOMAS (eds), *Prisoners' Vote: A Multidisciplinary and Comparative Perspective*, Routledge, London, 2024, 152 pp., ISBN: 978-1-032-22882-2

Through analyzing various legal systems and enforcement methods of rights, the *Prisoners' Vote* develops an argument on whether prisoners should have the right to vote, and the ways in which this could be implemented. Many critics debate the idea of prisoners having the ability to exercise the right to vote; however, as pointed out in the *Prisoners' Vote*, the crimes that were committed do not remove the need for the upholding of a human's right to contribute to the laws and regulations which affect them in and out of prison. Although it is heavily contested whether prisoners have the privilege to vote and contribute to society, as argued by both Herzog-Evans and Thomas, allowing this right to be exercised, prisoners become more present in their communities, which therefore could encourage rehabilitation efforts and smoother transitions to "normal life" following imprisonment. To conclude, Herzog-Evans and Thomas build an argument and the basis for prisoners gaining the right to vote through stressing the need for upholding democratic societies in which citizens, regardless of criminal status, have their voices heard.

T. Fox

A. HEUSCH / H. POSSER / N. ULLRICH, *Handbuch Verfassungsrecht in der Praxis*, C.H. Beck, Munich, 2024, xxxviii, 928 pp., ISBN: 978-3-406-80584-4

The book revolves around the importance of German constitutional law in practice for interpreting and applying ordinary legislation. The analysis is especially useful for specialized and administrative courts, which increasingly often refer to the rulings of the German Federal Constitutional Court in their activities. Moreover, students, lawyers, authorities and all those engaging with in-practice legal applications might find this text interesting and informative. About its structure, the Handbook is subdivided into six chapters. Each of those focuses on a different subfield of legislation's application. In the hierarchy of norms, constitutional laws, also known as German Basic Law, repre-

sent the top tier. Therefore, a systematic, in-depth review of the implications of such a normative body on the day-to-day application of ordinary norms is meaningful for a wide range of contexts. Among others, the diverse fields addressed in this volume comprise data protection, urban planning, order and security, asylum regulations, economy, society, environment, culture, and public health.

*A. Toso*

U. KARPENSTEIN / M. T. KOTZUR / J. J. VASEL, *Handbuch Rechtsschutz in der Europäischen Union*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., C.H. Beck, Munich, 2024, xlvi, 968 pp., ISBN: 978-3-406-75695-5

The book explores the restructuring and reforms of the procedural laws and court system of the European Union (EU) after the implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon in 2009. The chapters are divided into three main sections that review the different mechanisms of rights protection under the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the EU, the national German Courts, and the criminal and administrative legal frameworks. This fourth edition consists of a manual enriched with practical insights, whose content is relevant for legal professionals, companies, authorities, students, and trainee lawyers. Alongside its practice-oriented angle, the book enhances the accessibility and clarity of EU laws. Furthermore, it underscores the importance of a shared EU-wide legal framework. Achieving a collective sense of accountability within the EU community is essential for the successful progression of cross-border integration and to overcome the present and future economic and political challenges. A functioning and united European juridical framework, as this book illustrates, can strengthen the EU's responses to crises such as pandemics, migration, declining rule of law, populism, and armed conflicts.

*A. Toso*

F. L. LEEUW / M. BAMBERGER, *Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Lessons from Evaluations of the Rule of Law and Development*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025, 331 pp., ISBN: 978-1-8039-2566-0

This timely and insightful book edited by Frans L. Leeuw (Professor Emeritus of Law, Public Policy and Social Science Research, Maastricht University, the Netherlands) and Michael Bamberger (Senior Research Fellow, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation), examines the growing influence of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data on the evaluation of the rule of law and development programs. With a broad interdisciplinary and international perspective, with the contribution of scholars and practitioners from all over the world, it explores how these technologies are being applied across both industrialized and developing countries, shedding light on their potential, limitations, and ethical implications. The book highlights key differences in how AI is used in legal and development contexts and shows how each field can learn from the other, offering a nuanced understanding of how local context shapes technological adoption and evaluation. By combining theoretical reflections with practical examples, the book provides a clear and accessible resource for researchers, students, and policymakers. It also outlines future directions and critical gaps in knowledge, encouraging responsible and informed use of AI in these sensitive domains.

*R. Andrizzi*

G. MARTIN / E. PEARCE, *Research Handbook on Youth Criminology*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025, ix, 345 pp., ISBN: 978-1-0353-0074-7

The authors provide a comprehensive handbook on youth justice, offering a multidimensional analysis through theoretical perspectives and case studies.

After a concise introduction, the book covers the historical development of the concept of childhood and the birth of youth justice as a system separate from the adult one. Then, it examines some research methodologies on youth crime, including child-centered narratives, participatory approaches like the World Café one, car-based

youth justice appointments and social media research. An important section of the book explores the tension between the rehabilitative and the repressive approaches – a central discussion in youth criminology –, focusing both on their benefits and issues. The book also addresses the root causes of criminal behavior, with particular attention to the impact of the care-system on the child's development. Broader political contexts around youth justice are analyzed through international examples, such as Colombia and Sweden. Finally, the book concludes by assessing current issues concerning youth justice, such as the minimum age of criminal responsibility and the abolitionist theories within the juvenile legal system.

Because of the vastness of the topic, which it deals with with clarity, this book is an exhaustive volume for those who want to study youth criminology for the first time and obtain a thorough understanding of the subject.

*M. Triban*

J. PONCE / A. CERRILLO-I-MARTÍNEZ, *The EU Artificial Intelligence Act and the Public Sector - Humans and AI Systems in Public Administration in the light of the European Regulation on Artificial Intelligence of 2024* (with Foreword by C. Coglianese), European Public Law Series, vol. CXXVIII, 2025, European Public Law Organization, 426 pp., ISBN: 978-618-5417-17-8

As governments increasingly adopt AI systems, *The EU Artificial Intelligence Act and the Public Sector* asks what this shift means for democracy, fairness, and the everyday work of public administration. The book brings together 14 experts who explore how the 2024 EU AI Act seeks to manage the risks of AI while enabling innovation. From the basics of mathematical logic to the challenges of biased algorithms, opaque decision-making, and automated discretion, each chapter reveals how human oversight remains essential in high-stakes administrative contexts. Analyses of AI in rule-making, corruption detection, public security, and algorithmic auditing show both the potential and the regulatory blind spots of the current framework. Ultimately, the book argues that effective governance of AI depends not only on legal rules but also on strong institutions capable of under-

standing and supervizing these systems. It offers an engaging and timely foundation for navigating AI's growing role in the public sector.

*A. Pantazi*

R. SCHÜTZE, *European Union Law*, Oxford University Press, 2025, cix, 1025 pp., ISBN: 978-0-19-894103-3

European Union Law is an incredibly complex and multifaceted subject. This textbook tackles its constitutional principles, legal competences, and its key areas for students and professionals. With the period of 2020-2024 being rich in legal developments in the European Union (EU), this textbook tackles the everchanging landscape of EU Law in three ways: structure, methodology and substance. In regards to structure, it takes a critical approach, from the beginnings of EU law to the most recent legal events. In its methodology, it focuses on the EU Treaties, rather than a strictly court-centric approach. Lastly, in its substance, it defines and thoroughly explains what the Union is in a critical manner. Its engaging style is complemented by figures, tables, and practical examples that clarify difficult concepts. Overall, the book allows students and practitioners to grasp both theoretical principles and practical applications. By combining depth with clarity, this work serves as a valuable resource for anyone seeking a modern, well-rounded understanding of European Union Law.

*A. Pantazi*

A. SKORDAS / L. MARDIKIAN, *Research Handbook on the International Court of Justice*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2025, 619 pp., ISBN: 978-1-78811-137-9

As a reader, there is nothing more fulfilling than a publication which manages to illustrate a hard truth: The International Court of Justice operates as a subtle but enduring force in international relations, one that disciplines power not by coercion but rather through the language of law. The strength of this book lies in its critical insight on the Court's deliberate resistance to turn into a human rights tribunal, instead remaining firmly anchored into a reality where international

law prioritizes state consent, sovereignty and the structural integrity of the international legal order. Achilles Skordas and Lisa Mardikian stand out as a powerful duo who brings a nuanced contribution, managing to capture the delicate tension between law and politics, a tension that defines in many ways international law itself. *Research Handbook on the International Court of Justice* is not merely an idealized version of the ICJ; it is rather a deeply honest and sophisticated exploration of ICJ's place in global governance which would thus be recommended to anyone looking to train their critical thinking abilities.

S. Butiu

H. SODAN, *Grundgesetz: GG*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., C.H. Beck, Munich, 2024, xli, 1138 pp., ISBN: 978-3-406-81603-1

In a straightforward and scientific style, this book explains the regulatory context around the complex German constitutional law, also known as Basic Law. To support the study, specific reference is made to evaluations of the jurisprudence of the German Federal Constitutional Court. In detail, the analysis systematically addresses each of the 146 articles of the German Constitution, including recent amendments to the framework regarding financial administration, armed forces, and transitional regulations. This fifth edition updates the previous volumes with progress about the right to be forgotten, the unconstitutionality of the ban on assisted suicide, rules on climate protection, pandemic response, and equal political opportunities. The book targets readers such as students, lawyers, attorneys, and those interested in understanding constitutional law. Significantly, this academic piece enhances the accessibility of the German Basic Law. It clarifies its intricacies and provides an up-to-date assessment of the most recent amendments that affect highly relevant topics in the present legislative debate.

A. Toso

A. VEDASCHI / C. GRAZIANI, *Artificial Intelligence, Counter-Terrorism and the Rule of Law: At the Heart of National Security*, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham, 2025, 149 pp., ISBN: 978-1-80392-833-3

This book provides a timely and rigorous analysis of how technological developments reshape both terrorist practices and counter-terrorism strategies, raising profound legal and ethical questions.

The first part explores technology as a “terrorist tool,” from online indoctrination and propaganda, to the malicious use of Artificial Intelligence, the dark web, and the emerging risks of radicalization and financing within the metaverse. The second part turns to technology as a “counter-terrorism tool,” assessing metadata surveillance, content removal, biometrics, interception of communications, and Artificial Intelligence-based monitoring.

The authors underline the tension between security imperatives and the protection of fundamental rights, stressing the contrasting regulatory responses in the United States and the European Union. Particularly insightful is the discussion of biometric biases and of initiatives such as the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, which show both innovation and risk in shaping public opinion.

Overall, the book convincingly demonstrates that technological responses to terrorism cannot be dissociated from the rule of law and democratic safeguards.

*M. Danet*