

Research Handbook on EU Economic Law. Edited by Federico Fabbrini and Marco Ventoruzzo. Cheltenham, UK; Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing, 2019. ISBN: 978-1-78897-233-8. \$260.00

This research handbook is a thorough and well-organized volume on European economic law. It is a timely publication given the fast pace of changes in European economic affairs and presents a balanced look at the strengths and weaknesses among European Monetary Union (EMU) institutions with an eye to the future from the contributors' perspectives. The title is part of the publisher's series, *Research Handbooks in European Law*. This particular addition to the series is unique among other publications for its in-depth analysis of EU economic law.

The volume is edited by Federico Fabbrini, Professor of EU law; School of Law & Government, Dublin City University, Ireland (primary editor of Parts I and II) and Marco Ventoruzzo, Professor of Corporate Law and Financial Markets Regulation, Bocconi University, Milano, Italy (primary editor of Parts III and IV). Contributors include experts in academia, government, and legal practice. The editors emphasize that contributors to this volume purposefully span generations, gender, and geographical origin in an effort to offer various views on the development of the EMU.

The text is organized into four parts: economic union, monetary union, banking union, and capital markets union. This is a helpful framework for establishing the parts that make up the whole of the EMU. The editors' stated aim is to avoid a siloed analysis of the individual components of the EU Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and instead emphasize their interconnectedness as part of a single "ecosystem" of European economic law which is achieved in this set-up.

Part I, "Economic Union," delves into the economic institutions that govern the EU, fiscal surveillance mechanisms by the EU over member states and the newly established "Fiscal Compact," financial stabilization mechanisms established after the Euro-crisis in 2008, their political and legal significance, and finally an analysis of the establishment of a fiscal capacity for the EMU.

Part II, "Monetary Union," discusses the evolved role of the European Central Bank (ECB) following the Euro-crisis, monetary policy including both conventional and unconventional policies deployed by the ECB, judicial review of ECB action through an analysis of three important European Court of Justice judgments, and the design, implementation, and monitoring of economic adjustment programs for member states facing fiscal challenges.

Part III, "Banking Union," explores the "Single Rulebook" as a common regulatory framework for banks and the European Banking Authority (EBA), the "Single Supervisory Mechanism" as a new branch of the ECB providing (partial) supranational supervision of significant financial lending institutions, the "Single Resolution Mechanism," and lastly, the not yet materialized European Deposit Insurance Scheme (EDIS).

Part IV, "Capital Markets Union," discusses the evolution of the European System of Financial Supervision (ESFS) eight years after its set-up, the challenges of implementing the Capital Markets Union Action Plan, regulation of financial services and investment funds in the EMU, and ending with developments in post-trade activities.

Most contributors offer a thoughtful, forward-looking discussion of what steps or efforts are necessary to further each component of the EMU, acknowledging that the EMU is incomplete and a work-in-progress with challenges ahead. To this end, the editors achieved their goal of providing readers with an understanding of the strengths and weaknesses in the existing framework and the path forward.

This volume was published with due haste and the editors rightfully recognize the fast pace of EU economic affairs. However, there remains some concern for its longevity as a reference tool with regard to select issues. Even since the time the book went to press in June 2019, developments pertaining to the UK withdrawal from the EU moved rapidly, including the election of a new UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Notwithstanding, its strength is its thorough exploration of the EMU infrastructure which will hold up over time.

Overall, the editors delivered on their promise for a definitive reference work for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. This volume is most appropriate for advanced students, scholars, and practitioners in economics or economic law. It is not recommended for introductory study or novice researchers in these areas. Some knowledge of EU economic institutions, their common acronyms, and purpose is required to take fullest advantage of the expert level analysis in this text. While some broad discussion of EMU infrastructure is more friendly to the novice

researcher in this area of law, a true grasp of the Treaties and governing documents that bring these institutions to life is still a necessary underpinning.

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Research Handbook on Law and Courts, edited by Susan M. Sterett and Lee Demetrius Walker. Cheltenham, UK; Northampton, MA: Edgar Elgar Publishing, 2019. Pp., 490. ISBN: 978-1-78811-319-9.

The *Research Handbook on Law and Courts (Law and Courts)* features contributions from civil and common law scholars examining the current and future roles of courts as governing bodies within a democracy. If you pick up this title believing that it will celebrate the positive actions of judicial systems in advancing the rule of law globally, you will be mistaken. Instead, this diverse collection of essays by more than 50 authors highlights many of the vulnerabilities of the court systems in different countries. With few exceptions, the authors illustrate how fragile due process is and why we must be vigilant and continue efforts to make the world a better place through strong judicial systems with built-in safeguards. It is both inspiring and, at times, depressing to read.

The United States is well-represented in this collection; however, by no means does the U.S. judicial system dominate the text or theme of the book. *Law and Courts* is divided into six parts, each including a selection of essays from scholars around the world discussing a unique feature or issue within the judicial system. The one shortcoming in the coverage is the dearth of Asian representation. Nevertheless, a wide range of countries and regions is represented throughout the six parts into which the book is arranged.

The essays, generally, are focused on a unique attribute of a court system within a region or country, but several entries concentrate on a specific issue such as gender diversity or data protection. The common link among the authors is that their discussions are framed around how their topics affect human rights, social norms, political activities, and, ultimately the rule of law. Each essay is appealing due to its detailed, laser focus on a narrow issue, making the commentary both scholarly and practical at the same time. And so, we learn about domestic violence cases in South Africa, the interaction between the United Nations women's rights treaty and the domestic law of the Netherlands, the history and necessary use of amparos to challenge 'authority,' shadow files in India where evidence mysteriously disappears, continued threats of attack and removal of justices in certain Latin American countries, as well as other discreet aspects of how courts function and do not function. Each essay is a short, deep dive making it an excellent read for students and scholars of comparative and international law.

Part I comprises six entries dealing with Courts and Political Accountability. Of the several essays here, I found Aldo Ponce's study on drug trafficking in Latin America and how victims perceive the fairness of courts to be extraordinarily informative and well documented. Also, of great interest, is Hilson's entry on the politics of climate change and how citizens and NGOs have turned to the courts for relief. Part II has six essays with a lens focused on Judicial Process. The first entry in this Part introduces methods of achieving judicial independence in civil law systems in the face of corruption. Readers may also be interested in Schoenherr and Black's method for qualitatively analyzing U.S. Supreme Court briefs using coding and machine learning techniques to predetermine what arguments will carry the most weight with different justices. Part III is titled Diversity and holds five essays concentrating almost exclusively on gender issues. Included in this section is a fascinating comparison of the appointment of women to high courts by judicial selection committees in Nigeria and Zambia. Part IV consists of six essays organized under the heading Subnational Courts. Subnational courts include state courts, the role of communities, and, in the case of Spain, environmental NGOs. As part of this section, Moults analysis of discretion to bring domestic violence cases to court in South Africa is poignant. Moults recognizes the important role of street-level court clerks to exercise their discretion in allowing an application to move forward—or not—and how community norms may play into their decisions. Part V has four essays labeled Courts, Inclusion and Belonging. This part differs from Part III as it focuses on indigenous and other minority identities beyond gender. The first entry in this part addresses the timely topic of citizenship and the different ways courts mediate who is permitted access to citizenship