

“Creative International Lawmaking”

Abstract

Global Lawmakers: International Organizations and the Crafting of World Markets, written by Susan Block-Lieb and Terence Halliday (Cambridge Univ. Press forthcoming 2017), offers an empirical study of global lawmaking for commerce and trade through an intensive examination of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in the context of its allies and competitors. The book uses multiple social science research methods to trace the beginnings and development of UNCITRAL since the 1960s. It focuses particularly on three episodes of lawmaking highly consequential for global markets—corporate bankruptcy, transport of goods by sea, secured transactions—between the late 1990s to 2012. In addition, it maps and analyzes UNCITRAL’s interactions with other global legislatures (such as UNIDROIT and the Hague Conference on Private International Law) and other lawmaking IOs (such as the UN’s Conference on Trade and Development, or UNCTAD, and the World Bank) through interviews and close textual analysis.

The book closely follows three Working Groups and three major lawmaking projects from agenda-setting through formal and informal deliberations to Big Deals that ultimately produced a Legislative Guide on Insolvency Law, a Legislative Guide on Secured Transactions Law, and a new Convention on Contracts for the International Carriage of Goods Wholly or Partly by Sea. In addition, the book uncovers internal struggles within UNCITRAL over its methods of work and external struggles between UNCITRAL and potential competitors: the World Bank, UNIDROIT, and UNCTAD. *Global Lawmakers* closes with an essay on inventive global governance in which UNCITRAL’s adaptive politics from its origins to the present inform a theory of IO viability in the competitive social spaces of international lawmaking.

**GLOBAL LAWMAKERS:
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CRAFTING OF WORLD MARKETS**

Susan Block-Lieb and Terence C. Halliday

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