RECENT PUBLICATIONS

ORDERING THE CITY: LAND USE, POLICING, AND THE RESTORATION OF URBAN AMERICA. By Nicole Stelle Garnett. New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press. 2010. Pp. xi, 276. $45.00. Deteriorating urban environments in America continue to be one of the nation’s greatest domestic problems. In this timely new book, Professor Nicole Stelle Garnett adds her holistic viewpoint to the debate over how best to address this difficulty. By using the literatures of law, history, economics, sociology, and psychology — as well as many case studies — Garnett explains how the realms of property regulation and policing interact. Drawing from the intersection and tension between the well-known “broken windows” theory and the “new urbanist” idea regarding the benefits of mixed-land use urban environments, Ordering the City attempts to pursue innovative methods for addressing urban issues. This insightful approach suggests a rethinking of the traditional perspective on the promotion of “order” in urban environments. Garnett’s project asks urban policymakers to consider incremental land-use reform that looks beyond ineffective single-use zoning regulations. This readable book presents an important exposition for those seeking to further their understanding of the complexities facing urban America.

LAW, ECONOMICS, AND MORALITY. By Eyal Zamir & Barak Medina. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press. 2010. Pp. xi, 363. $95.00. Though it is applied to numerous legal questions, cost-benefit analysis (CBA) is viewed by detractors as normatively objectionable. Responding to this view in Law, Economics, and Morality, Professors Eyal Zamir and Barak Medina provide a framework for integrating normative constraints into CBA and then apply their integrated model to five socially significant legal issues. In Part I, they lay out the theoretical groundwork for their model to illustrate “the methodological plausibility of integrating deontological constraints into economic analysis” (pp. 79-80). In doing so, Zamir and Medina offer an overview of what they call the “threshold function,” which, by incorporating normative constraints, specifies the threshold net benefit required either to justify an act that may be socially harmful or to mandate an act that may cause inconvenience to the actor. In Part II, the authors implement their framework in contexts as diverse as the fight against terrorism, freedom of speech, antidiscrimination law, contract law, and legal paternalism. Regarding the war on terror, for example, the authors confront antiterrorism measures that are not intended to harm as well as those that are — most notably, torture. By addressing such issues, the authors give pause to those who claim that CBA has no role in solving society’s most vexing legal problems.