RECENT PUBLICATIONS

CRIMINALS AND VICTIMS. By W. David Allen. Stanford, Cal.: Stanford University Press. 2011. Pp. xiii, 292. $55.00. The question of how to study, comprehend, and deter crime has vexed legal thinkers since the first time a man made off with another’s loaf of bread. Professor W. David Allen’s illuminating new book persuasively argues that examining crime through an economic framework may offer a path to understanding both the offenders and the offended. Allen divides his analysis into two parts: He first discusses the choices of criminals during the planning, commission, and covering up of illegal conduct, as well as (where applicable) in instances of recidivism. Allen next turns to victims, examining their decisions and efforts to prevent, resist, and report crime and the individual and societal consequences of their victimization. Using both traditional and newly developed economic models, integrated with insights from fields such as psychology, sociology, and public health, Allen elucidates the chronological “life cycle” of crime. In demonstrating how the interplay of criminals’ and victims’ decisions influences outcomes, Allen offers criminologists, legal scholars, and policymakers alike a bridge toward targeted efforts to reduce crime and victimization.

LOSING TWICE: HARMs OF INDIFFERENCE IN THE SUPREME COURT. By Emily M. Calhoun. New York, N.Y.: Oxford University Press. 2011. Pp. xi, 172. $39.95. Court cases by their nature involve winners and losers. In constitutional cases in particular, people who are not formally parties to the case may nevertheless be stakeholders in its outcome, and these people also win and lose accordingly. In Losing Twice, Professor Emily M. Calhoun brings a fresh perspective to this problem by arguing that people who are adversely affected by constitutional decisions — “constitutional losers” — in fact lose twice, first when the constitutional issue is not resolved in their favor and again when the published opinion treats the losing party as if it deserved something less than full constitutional stature. Calhoun not only painstakingly illuminates the existence of this second harm by closely analyzing some of the most controversial cases of the past fifty years, but she also compellingly argues that judges have a duty to avoid or ameliorate this kind of harm, a duty that they have too often failed to discharge. In this book, targeted toward the citizenry as a whole, Calhoun simultaneously engages with the thorniest constitutional questions of our day and brings this timely discussion to a new audience.