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### **Terence C. Halliday, Bruce G. Carruthers Awarded Prize for Book on Financial Crisis and International Organizations**

#### ***Bankrupt: Global Lawmaking and Systemic Financial Crisis***

#### **Wins Best Book Prize from the American Sociological Association Sociology of Law Section**

CHICAGO, IL – May 13, 2010- A major new book, *Bankrupt: Global Lawmaking and Systemic Financial Crisis* (Stanford University Press, 2009) by American Bar Foundation and Center on Law and Globalization and Northwestern University scholars has been awarded the Best Book Prize for 2010 by the Sociology of Law Section of the American Sociological Association. The authors, [Terence C. Halliday](#), research professor at the American Bar Foundation and the co-Director of the Center on Law and Globalization, and [Bruce G. Carruthers](#), a Northwestern University professor of sociology and ABF-

affiliated scholar, will receive the award at the American Sociological Society Association meetings in Atlanta in August.

*Bankrupt*, an in-depth analysis of the reaction to the Asian financial crisis of a decade ago, takes an unprecedented look on the way global financial institutions respond to financial crises. In their prize-winning book, the authors tracked closely the interventions of powerful international financial institutions and major states when they were confronted with a quickening momentum of economic collapse in Asia in the 1990s. The sociologists found that widespread economic crises provoked intense lawmaking by international organizations, considerable competition among them, and frequent struggles with countries they intended to help out of the crisis.

The book has been lauded by its reviewers for its unique and comprehensive data, gathered by the authors themselves for over half a decade. Halliday and Carruthers gained unprecedented access to the highest echelons of international financial and governance institutions, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asian Development Bank, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and others. Their research included intensive fieldwork in Indonesia, South Korea, and China, and participation in key gatherings where international organizations sought to influence national lawmaking, such as regional Asian Forums in New Delhi, Seoul, Beijing, and Sydney.

*Bankrupt* shows that alongside the urgent macroeconomic efforts at financial stabilization in the Asian economic crisis of the 1990s, international organizations pressed countries hard hit by the crisis, such as Indonesia and Korea, to immediately create new laws and institutions to handle an avalanche of failing businesses. Corporate

bankruptcy reforms moved to the top of regulatory interventions. Indonesia and Korea were compelled by institutions like the IMF and World Bank to agree to undertake specific changes in their laws as a condition of receiving tens of billions of dollars in new money to stabilize their economies.

“This is an impressive book,” said John Campbell, of Dartmouth College and Copenhagen Business School. “Based on hundreds of interviews from around the world, it is extremely well researched.” He added, “(*Bankrupt*) reveals how global norms are generated and put into practice in different countries” and “moves well beyond conventional studies of global diffusion.”

*Bankrupt*, recognized for its contribution to a public sociology of debates among scholars, international civil servants and national policy-makers, is having an impact on international policy. *Bankrupt*'s arguments about global and national lawmaking are being debated at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and presented at international forums of national policy-makers in Asia. Concluded Mike Powers at the London School of Economics, “analysts of the more recent financial crisis would do well to read this book and heed its methodological, empirical and theoretical lessons.”

*The American Bar Foundation is the nation's leading research institute for the empirical study of law. An independent, nonprofit organization for more than fifty years, the ABF has advanced the understanding and improvement of law through research projects of unmatched scale and quality on the most pressing issues facing the legal system in the United States and the world*

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