The European Court and Civil Society

The European Union today stands on the brink of radical institutional and constitutional change. The most recent enlargement and proposed legal reforms reflect a commitment to democracy: stabilizing political life for citizens governed by new regimes, and constructing a European Union more accountable to civil society. Despite the perceived novelty of these reforms, this book explains (through quantitative data and qualitative case analyses) how the European Court of Justice has developed and sustained a vibrant tradition of democratic constitutionalism since the 1960s. The book documents the dramatic consequences of this institutional change for civil society and public policy reform throughout Europe. Cichowski offers detailed empirical and historical studies of gender equality and environmental protection law across fifteen countries and over thirty years, revealing important linkages between civil society, courts and the construction of governance. The findings bring into question dominant understandings of legal integration.

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The European Court and Civil Society

Litigation, Mobilization and Governance

Rachel A. Cichowski
This book is dedicated to Ed
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This book is the product of considerable support: financial, intellectual and personal. I am grateful to the following foundations for their generous support of my research: German Marshall Fund, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Council of European Studies (CES), University of California Center for German and European Studies, University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC), Women in International Trade, and Deutscher Akademischer AustauschDienst (DAAD). Further, the project involved considerable time conducting research in Europe and I would especially like to acknowledge the support and hospitality of various individuals and institutions. In particular, I am grateful to Yves Mény and Alec Stone Sweet who made it possible for me to work as a visiting fellow at the Robert Schuman Center for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, Italy (1998–1999). I would also like to extend my gratitude to Adrienne Héritier who was extremely gracious in her support and welcome while I was a visiting fellow at the Max Planck Institute in Bonn, Germany (2000). These were both superb intellectual environments and I have no doubt this research project was significantly shaped and improved by the time spent at both of these institutions. Finally, the study has greatly benefited from ongoing conversations with my colleagues at the University of Washington in the Comparative Law and Society Studies Center, Law, Society and Justice Program, European Union Center and Political Science Department. Special thanks also go to John Haslam, Senior Editor at Cambridge University Press, and his excellent support team, Assistant Editor Carrie Cheek and Production Editor Jo Breeze, and equally invaluable were the suggestions and comments from the anonymous reviewers.

Intellectually, I have been inspired, challenged and encouraged by too many to list. However, I want to extend my appreciation to my mentors while I was at the University of California, Irvine. My own professional and intellectual development owes much to Russell Dalton, who not only provided invaluable feedback on my research, but who never ceased to
inform me of and encourage participation in conference and research travel opportunities. Wayne Sandholtz provided an invaluable source of clarity and reliability in my moments of intellectual confusion. I also want to acknowledge Alec Stone Sweet; his generous spirit was integral to the completion of this project – from use of his data and office space to the hospitality that was so graciously extended to me in Irvine, Oxford and Florence. But most of all, Alec shared with me his intrigue and curiosity for law, courts and politics, a gift that deeply influenced this book.

This study could not have been completed without the personal support of my close friends and family. My brother, sister and close friends deserve acknowledgment not only for listening to my musings but also for providing breaks into the world beyond this book. I also would like to acknowledge my parents, Mary C. Clare and Bob Cichowski. Whatever my latest endeavor, wherever it might be in the world, they continue to provide me with an invaluable gift of love, respect and pride. Whether she knows it or not, my daughter Lucia, who was born during the duration of this book, gave me an invaluable gift of perspective, delightful distraction and motivation that made the completion of this project possible. Finally, I am dedicating this book to Edward Rejzek, my husband and best friend. Few individuals possess the strength to truly let go of the thing you love the most. Ed does. His endless encouragement and support for my adventurous spirit – which often puts us on opposite ends of the globe – is testimony to this. Completion of this book relied on this love and friendship.