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Boston College Law School

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12/7/09--Boston College Law School is pleased to announce that Professor Vlad Perju's article "Reason and Authority in the European Court of Justice" (Virginia Journal of International Law 49, no.2, Winter 2009) has been awarded the 2009 Ius Commune Prize in Europe. The prize, which was presented at a ceremony in Maastricht last week, is awarded to an article of outstanding quality which falls within the material scope encompassed by the Ius Commune Research School. This doctoral school/research consortium is formed by three universities in the Netherlands (Amsterdam, Maastricht and Utrecht) and the Catholic University of Leuven, in Belgium.

A letter from the jury that awarded the prize reads, in part: "It was a truly wonderful contribution, and the jury was unanimous in its decision from the start. The winning paper was not written by a member of the research school, but by somebody whom the research school should wish to be among their members."

In Perju's award-winning article, he analyzes critically the style of reasoning found in the decisions of the European Court of Justice. Fervently disputing the court's judicial minimalism, the paper argues for a dialogical turn in the Court's justification models. Perju states his belief that this transformation, which he claims is long overdue, could play a role in the development of a common European political consciousness.

The Ius Commune Research School, established in 1995, was formally recognized by the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences in 1998. The Research School consists of approximately 200 senior researchers and 110 research fellows.