

1-1-1997

# Book Review: Competition Regulation in the Pacific Rim

Ramon A. Klitzke

*Marquette University Law School*, [ramon.klitzke@marquette.edu](mailto:ramon.klitzke@marquette.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/facpub>

 Part of the [Law Commons](#)

## Publication Information

Ramon A. Klitzke, Book Review, *Wis. Law.*, May 1997, at 26 (reviewing *Competition Regulation in the Pacific Rim* (Green & Rosenthal, eds.) (1996)). Reprinted with permission of the May 1997 *Wisconsin Lawyer*, the official publication of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and the author.

---

## Repository Citation

Klitzke, Ramon A., "Book Review: Competition Regulation in the Pacific Rim" (1997). *Faculty Publications*. Paper 218.  
<http://scholarship.law.marquette.edu/facpub/218>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Scholarship at Marquette Law Scholarly Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Marquette Law Scholarly Commons. For more information, please contact [megan.obrien@marquette.edu](mailto:megan.obrien@marquette.edu).

## Competition Regulation in the Pacific Rim

Edited by Carl J. Green and Douglas E. Rosenthal (New York, NY: Oceana Publications Inc., 1996). 652 pgs. Hardcover. \$95.

Reviewed by  
Prof. Ramon A. Klitzke

Competition is very high on the international agenda of most countries. The World Trade Organization has a working group on competition and pushes for stronger competition laws and enforcement mechanisms in bilateral negotiations with various countries. Reasoned regulation of competition will determine the future of economic health in the new century.

On Nov. 25, 1996, the foreign ministers of 18 Pacific Rim governments endorsed sweeping tariff reductions by the year 2000 in the \$1 trillion "information technology" industry. The ministers, meeting at the fourth summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC), also agreed to voluntarily liberalize many other trade and investment opportunities. Duties on computers and telecommunications equipment will be completely eliminated and economic and technical cooperation will be deepened. These were the first concrete steps toward a Pacific free trade and investment area by 2020.

APEC members account for 50 percent of the global economy, more than 40

percent of international trade and 80 percent of the global trade in information technology.

Global trade will continue to expand rapidly but healthy competition will advance only if domestic laws do not unduly impair the ability of local firms to compete in international markets and, conversely, foreign firms have full opportunity to compete in domestic markets. APEC takes a new and more consensual approach to the contentious trade disputes that have obstructed healthy competition. Laws and policies on investment, capital markets, intellectual property and regulation of the environment and labor are all subject to intense APEC scrutiny and subsequent agreement.

*Competition Regulation in the Pacific Rim* is an excellent collection of 14 papers presented by distinguished scholars and public figures from government, academia and the private sector in 14 APEC countries. The papers were presented at a meeting hosted by the Program in Asian Law and Policy Studies (ALPS) of the Georgetown University Law Center in May 1995. This is the second volume in the ALPS project on "Harmonization of Law in the Asia Pacific Region."

These papers on antitrust and economic developments in Asia and North America are exceptionally timely and important. Each author addresses the relation, in that author's country, between competition law and policy on the one hand, and investment policy, economic development ("industrial") policy, trade policy, government regulation and exemption of particular economic sectors, and intellectual property law and policy. Of particular interest is the extent to which each country's competition officials consult meaningfully on the competition aspects of regulation of each of these five economic areas. Most countries are concerned about enterprises having significant local power, how to achieve fair deregulation and how to stop anticompetitive market practices. They need clear and predictable standards for local business communities, many of which are inexperienced in the norms of open markets.

The depth of the 14 papers testifies to the considerable effort the authors devoted to explaining their national competition regimes. The papers fill large gaps

in information available about competition law and policy in developing Pacific Rim countries. They describe many recent dramatic changes.

The countries represented in the 14 papers are Australia, Canada, China, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States. Each paper is replete with references to sources of law and descriptions of economic conditions affecting competition policy. Much of the information is not readily available in other books.

This book will be of great value to businesses competing in the Pacific Rim, the attorney advising those businesses and scholars studying the strengths and weaknesses of the different approaches to competition policy in APEC countries.

Ramon A. Klitzke is Professor Emeritus, Marquette University Law School. He taught antitrust law, intellectual property and administrative law.