Preface

This book explores a structured method for making legal overall assessments and balancing of interests. The method originates from decision theory and is called multi-criteria analysis. The model that is used is additive and is referred to in this book as the simple additive weighting (SAW), which is well known in decision theory and can be used in overall assessments when there are one or more objectives, multiple options and a number of decision-making criteria. However, most people in the legal profession are probably not familiar with decision theory. In an attempt to describe the method in a simple and educational way, this book therefore contains 22 graphic figures and 21 tables as well as a number of concrete examples of the application of multi-criteria analysis and the simple additive model. In addition, simple additive weighting in some examples is used together with fuzzy logic. The book should be seen as an introduction to these decision theory tools, which are intended to be used for problem structuring, analysis and decision support in overall assessments and balancing of interests. My hope is that it will provide inspiration and spark interest in methods that are used in fields of science other than law and which have much to contribute in a legal decision-making context.

Financial support for the book, which was first published in Swedish in 2015 by iUSTUS publishing company in Uppsala, has been provided by the Swedish Foundation for Jurisprudential Research (Institutet för rättvetenskaplig forskning), to which I would hereby like to express my heartfelt gratitude. For this publication, the contents have been revised somewhat and the book has also been given a shorter title.1

---

1 Translation into English by Chris Kleinman.