

Preface

I want to extend my thanks to my friend, colleague, and co-author, Craig Jackson, for his leadership in preparing the third edition of our casebook! So, thanks so much Craig, as well as to the editors at ASPEN!

Martin Levy
Houston
October 2022

This edition continues the inspired approach of the text's original author, Martin Levy, of presenting constitutional law within broader contexts than a simple progression of Supreme Court cases beginning with *Marbury v. Madison*. The text, now in its Third Edition as a collaborative work of the two of us, strives to demonstrate the role of social change and history in constitutional interpretation, as evident in the case selection and emphasis. For example, this book includes in certain core areas of the constitutional law canon cases that trace the nation's struggle with race — slavery is presented within the context of the drafting of the Constitution and in the Commerce Clause, as a reminder of the practice of human trafficking that influenced the writing of the Constitution and continues to influence social events today. Commercial regulation is presented as both a function of constitutional structure and international economics to demonstrate the kind of polity the Framers had in mind when drafting the Constitution. Procreative rights are the subject of several selected cases, including *Roe v. Wade*, and the case overturning *Roe*, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, to demonstrate judicial review and constitutional interpretation in addition to the jurisprudence of the Due Process Clause. The events leading up to and surrounding the nation's reaction to 9/11 are chronicled in cases addressing presidential power, separation of powers, the constitutional meaning of "war powers," and civil liberties. The economic history of the Great Depression serves as the backdrop to discussing the changes in the Court's interpretation of both the Commerce Clause and the Due Process Clause.

It has been an honor to work with Marty, my colleague of 32 years, on this latest edition of the textbook. Marty shares my view that constitutional law should be more than a collection of cases and descriptions of structures, fascinating perhaps to constitutional law scholars yet separated from the history and society that we all live in. Hopefully the use of historical and social contexts will be fascinating to students while demonstrating the real day-to-day impact of constitutional law on our lives.

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