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## PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

More than twenty years have passed since our first edition. We remain grateful to the professors who have adopted our book, many of whom have given us suggestions through the years that we have incorporated. Please continue to advise and question us. In particular, we seek your input as we begin to develop a set of online materials to enhance the teaching and learning of this subject.

With each edition of this book we return to the principles, insights, and goals that animated the first edition. First, we continue to think that setting cases in context is important to help students better understand doctrine. Doctrine becomes meaningful when set in its historical and sociopolitical context. In this edition we have endeavored to add more context to some of the more recent cases. That context often conveys the importance of procedure as the backbone to the vindication of substantive rights. The evolution of doctrine is often complex, and the facts on the ground often defy familiar and tidy ideological narratives. For those interested, an important part of the book's origin story is set forth in Stephen N. Subrin, *Teaching Civil Procedure While You Watch It Disintegrate*, 59 Brooklyn L. Rev. 1155 (1993). Then, as now, we think it important to be honest (even if critical) about the state of the field of civil procedure.

We hope the book gives students the ability to understand this complexity while still keeping a clear grasp of doctrine. Part and parcel of this commitment involves giving somewhat longer excerpts of cases than other books do. We think that this encourages critical thinking and perspective as well as acclimating students to how cases appear in the real world. The cases are edited, however, and we note that those edits are not always tracked in the text with ellipses or other notes. Footnotes have been kept to their original numbering, but most have been deleted.

Beginning with the first edition and continuing with each edition thereafter, we have looked for ways to help students learn by doing. We strongly believe that practice—engaging in how lawyers actually use procedure—is essential to understanding the doctrine and essential to becoming a successful ethical professional. In this edition, we have included more examples and problem sets to make the materials more accessible and the concepts more concrete. We have also added more practice exercises, but now focus on one set of Case Files throughout the book, rather than the two that we have used in prior editions. The jeep rollover case has always been the backbone of the practice component of this book, and we decided to consolidate attention on the *Carpenter v. Dee* case. To compensate for the absence of the *Warner v. City of New York* case files (in earlier editions), issues that are unique to public law litigation are woven throughout the book with practice problems, examples, comments, and questions. Because most professors did not have time to use the *Warner* case files in their courses, we believe that this revision will make it easier for professors to incorporate these issues into the course.

The principal founder of this casebook, Steve Subrin, retired in 2016 after 45 years of teaching. A voluminous festschrift celebrating his profound contributions to the field of civil procedure is printed at *Through a Glass Starkly: Civil Procedure Re-Assessed*, 15 Nev. L.J. 1091-1692 (2015). Yet words fail to capture the mentorship, camaraderie, humor, grace, energy, knowledge, and genius that Steve brings to each personal relationship and to every scholarly project. Steve no longer participates in revisions to this book, but every page reflects his desire to help students master the doctrine, learn the practice, and appreciate the context of civil procedure.

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