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Preface

Ensure student success with the Focus Casebook Series.

THE FOCUS APPROACH

In a law office, when a new associate attorney is being asked to assist a supervising attorney with a legal matter in which the associate has no prior experience, it is common for the supervising attorney to provide the associate with a recently closed case file involving the same legal issues so that the associate can see and learn from the closed file to assist more effectively with the new matter. This experiential approach is at the heart of the *Focus Casebook Series*.

Additional hands-on features, such as Real Life Applications, Applying the Concepts, and In Practice provide more opportunities for critical analysis and application of concepts covered in the chapters. Professors can assign problem-solving questions as well as exercises on drafting documents and preparing appropriate filings.

CONTENT SNAPSHOT

This book is designed to help students understand Federal Civil Procedure by starting with the big picture and then delving into the details of each topic and concept.

Part I provides an introduction to federal civil procedure—the rules that govern how disputes are resolved in federal court. Part II is Choosing the Proper Court. There are thousands of courts, both state and federal, scattered all across the United States. But which of these thousands of courts is a proper forum for resolving a particular dispute? The answer to this question is important because a court that is distant or inconvenient or unfamiliar with the governing law is unlikely to reach a fair and just resolution. The chapters in Part II address federal subject matter jurisdiction, personal jurisdiction, and federal venue, which, taken together, determine which courts are proper and which are not.

Part III is Learning About the Case. How do the parties learn of each other's claims and defenses and the evidence that will be used to support or refute them? Part III answers this question with chapters on notice, pleadings, and discovery.

Part IV is Adding Parties and Claims. This part answers a simple question: How big can a civil action be? Can we have more than one plaintiff or more than one defendant? If so, under what circumstances? Can multiple different claims be

asserted in a civil action, and, if so, under what circumstances? Part IV answers these questions with chapters on party joinder and claim joinder.

Part V is Pretrial and Trial. It addresses pretrial and trial procedure, including chapters on disposing of the case without trial, basic trial procedure, and judgment as a matter of law. Part VI is Appealing the Trial Court's Decision. It addresses when you may appeal the trial court's decision, how to properly argue the court committed an error, and whether that error requires the appellate court to reverse the trial court's judgment. Part VII is Precluding Further Litigation. It addresses the requirements you must establish before a court will use a prior court's decision in a case to preclude further litigation.

Part VIII is The *Erie* Problem. The *Erie* Problem addresses what law the court should use to resolve a civil action where subject matter jurisdiction is based on diversity of citizenship or possibly supplemental jurisdiction. Perhaps more precisely, it addresses which jurisdiction's law should apply in a given situation. All 50 states have their own tort law, contract law, and property law, just to name a few. Of course, there is also federal law and sometimes the law of a foreign nation becomes relevant to a civil action. Part VIII addresses the principles courts use to determine whose law applies to resolve the issues in the case.

RESOURCES

Other resources to enrich your class include: *Examples & Explanations for Civil Procedure*, by Joseph W. Glannon. Ask your Aspen sales representative or visit the Aspen website at aspenpublishing.com to learn more about building the product package that's right for you.