

PREFACE TO THE SIXTH EDITION

In this edition we continue to refine the basic approach we have taken since the first edition was published twenty years ago. In taking a “structured approach” to evidence law, we explain the rules as clearly as possible and provide concise examples. In the sections entitled Questions for Classroom Discussion, each new example builds step-by-step upon the preceding hypotheticals until a complete picture of the law is clear. We believe that students learn evidence law best when they know precisely what hypotheticals we will discuss in class. This is because students then can see that preparation pays real dividends. We continue to deemphasize cases in favor of focusing on the Federal Rules of Evidence, a version of which now is in effect in over forty states.

While Professor Leonard passed away nearly fifteen years ago, his name remains on this edition because it continues to reflect the clarity of his thought, gentle humor, and love of teaching.

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