

Preface

From the time *Objections at Trial* was first published in 1990, this evidentiary handbook has received many complimentary remarks from judges, lawyers, and law students about the practical utility and usefulness of the volume to the legal profession. As a further testament to its value, more than 15,000 copies of the handbook have since been distributed, and I am now extremely proud to introduce a new edition of *Objections at Trial*.

Again, the authors have combined their experience and legal talents to produce this edition of their work. The authors are Ronald L. Carlson, Fuller E. Callaway Professor Emeritus, University of Georgia School of Law; Edward J. Imwinkelried, Edward L. Barrett, Jr., Professor of Law Emeritus, Director of Trial Advocacy, University of California Davis School of Law; and this writer, Myron H. Bright, U.S. Senior Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Our goal remains to produce a handbook that bridges the gap between knowing the rules of evidence and applying them in a judicial setting—a handbook that clearly identifies what proposed evidence is subject to exclusion or modification by objection. This edition again provides the reader with a primer on the fine art of making effective objections to inadmissible

evidence. It also includes, in the appendices, important commentary on preserving the record, valuable techniques on making objections, and helpful advice on opening and closing statements.

The book format enables the reader to master the use of the rules of evidence in the federal courts and in the forty-two states that have adopted evidentiary rules patterned on the federal rules. The reader will find that the book divides objections into alphabetical subject titles from A (Addressing Juror by Name) to W (Witness Lying). Darkened tabs on the pages make references to the location of the subject matter referred to alphabetically.

The text for each objection states a question that may be posed on examination of a witness, the proper objection, and the ruling. Thereafter, the reader will find reasoning for the ruling, discussion of the particular issue, and citations to appropriate legal authorities.

The complete rules can be found in Appendix 4.

Finally, in today's legal world where litigation trials are less frequent, but settlement through negotiation, mediation, or arbitration may be a more usual resolution of legal disputes, counsel for each of the parties would be well advised to know and to be able to recite objections to an opponent's proposed case and the

evidence supporting it. This could be an important factor in the settlement process.

Good luck in your quest to know and properly apply *Objections at Trial*.

Myron H. Bright