

Preface

From the moment James A. Henderson, Jr., and Richard N. Pearson conceived of this book nearly 50 years ago, *The Torts Process* has been premised on the view that tort law is more than a collection of doctrines and policies, and that it cannot realistically be understood apart from the processes by which tort disputes are resolved. Over the years, the authors of *The Torts Process* have remained steadfast in the view that it is equally as important for students to grasp the roles of the lawyer, the trial judge, the jury, and the appellate court in resolving a tort claim as it is to understand the doctrinal and policy elements that are at play. We find that providing students with this process perspective greatly enhances their appreciation for the actual nature, functions, and limits of tort law. To aid this effort to study tort law in motion, the authors have included a series of problems that challenge students to apply their understanding of doctrine to concrete circumstances. We have found that students, even in their first weeks of law study, benefit significantly from this effort and find it interesting and rewarding. There is no need, however, to assign all, or indeed any, of the problems, for the book is also designed to function as a traditional casebook. The book seeks to enrich and broaden students' understanding by providing integrated discussions of tort theory and policy issues and by raising important ethical and professional responsibility considerations.

This latest update of *The Torts Process* is the first that will not benefit directly from the extraordinary mind, voice, and pen of Professor Henderson. In addition to being a giant in the scholarly fields of tort law and products liability, Jim also was a teacher *par excellence*. He devoted extraordinary levels of care and effort to the classroom, as legions of former students can attest. And he considered the writing and updating of a law school casebook to be an act of great craft and responsibility, one in which he took enormous pride. I hope that, even as it is updated for this and future editions, *The Torts Process* will always make Jim proud.

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