
Preface

The study of national security law is both rewarding and complex. Interest in this field has grown tremendously in the past three decades, reflected in the increasing popularity of the course in law schools and other courses of study throughout the nation. All law disciplines involve both complexity and diversity of pedagogical treatment, as no two texts or professors are the same. However, in this field, there tends to be greater diversity in the primary text used by students and the prioritization and treatment of materials by the professor than is commonly experienced in other disciplines of the law.

This treatise was developed with a very clear objective: provide students with a resource to aid them in understanding what we consider the essential topics in any national security law course. We did not endeavor to produce a comprehensive national security law treatise, nor a textbook in the guise of a supplemental resource. Instead, we focused on key topics of national security law, and within each topic what we believe are the most important sources and authorities. In so doing, our goal was to provide a resource that, while certainly not perfectly synchronized with every national security law curriculum in the nation (something that is probably impossible to achieve), strikes a student-centric balance between the scope of coverage and feasibility of use to enhance the learning experience.

The diversity of the many sub-topics falling under the broad umbrella of national security law suggests to us that there is no uniform syllabus for this broad topic. However, we do believe there are common foundational topics that will almost inevitably be addressed in a national security law course. Accordingly, our text begins by addressing general national security law foundational issues, and then progresses to more specific topical issues. Each chapter, while linked by very broad themes that permeate the subject generally, is intended to stand on its own. We believe this will facilitate the utility of the text for students who, where appropriate, may selectively utilize topical chapters. This has also led us to tailor the scope and density of each chapter to what we believe is student need, which we prioritized over any effort to provide a consistent tone through the chapters. Ultimately, our mission unifies our chapters: provide a useful resource for students.

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We hope those who use our book feel that we have accomplished our mission! More importantly, we hope students will value the contribution our book makes to their journey through the complexities of national security law.

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