

## PREFACE

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In addition to providing historical materials on the original sources of Louisiana succession law, this third edition of the treatise reflects the many significant changes in Louisiana successions and donations law that have occurred over the last several decades. Included is an analysis of the intestate revisions of 1981, as well as the sweeping changes that took place in the 1990s, necessitated by the changes in forced heirship, most of which were reflected in revisions to the Civil Code in 1996. In addition, the Louisiana State Law Institute's Committee on Successions and Donations worked on an extensive revision of Book III, Titles I and II of the Civil Code throughout the 1990s and into the new millennium. In 2005, the law of filiation underwent a complete revision, affecting the rights of successors. In 2025, extensive changes to the will forms in Louisiana were made. Some of the revisions entailed a modernization, reflecting new terminology, and little substantive change. While some laws were altered in such a way that the subtleties are not readily discernible, other laws were significantly altered, and new issues will continue to arise. Hopefully, this edition will serve as a blue print and a resource as one works through these various changes.

The initial work of Professor Oppenheim has been adopted in some areas, particularly those dealing with historical material. The outstanding work of Professors Frederick Swaim and Kathryn Venturatos Lorio resulted in an analysis of the laws through 1995, and Professor Lorio completed the second edition after the turn of the century. I joined Professor Lorio after her gracious invitation, and we updated the second edition until her retirement in 2016. Discussions of the revisions post 2016 are my work product, and I apologize for any misinterpretations that I have made.