

PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

Civil practice in Massachusetts has undergone dramatic and dynamic expansion since the production of the last edition in 2004. The trial and appellate courts have adopted and refined the rules and procedures governing that practice. With this new edition our goal has been to gather the information important to the litigants and attorneys practicing in the courts of the Commonwealth.

In this new edition we have left out, or made only limited reference to, some subject areas which are covered in detail in other volumes of the Massachusetts Practice series. Among those topics, and the volumes to which practitioners in those areas of the law should refer, are the following: appellate practice – Appellate Practice and Procedure (Vol. 41); probate and divorce proceedings – Family Law and Practice With Forms (Vol. 1) and Probate Law and Practice (Vol. 21); and federal practice – Federal Civil Practice (Vol. 46).

This new edition has updated and expanded or added coverage of a number of matters encountered by civil practitioners. Among those are: bankruptcy, motion practice, preliminary suit requirements, pre-trial proceedings, jury empanelment, small claims, summary process, supplementary process, forfeiture, and abuse and harassment prevention orders.

We hope that that this new edition will be of assistance to civil practitioners and the judges before whom they will practice.

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