

Preface to the 2025-2026 Edition

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Edition of the Arizona Trial Handbook, which provides a compact, practical, up-to-date, and topically arranged guide for lawyers and judges before, during, and immediately after the trial phase of civil and criminal cases in Arizona state courts. It answers the frequent question “What is Arizona’s rule?” by synthesizing the relevant portions of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, Criminal Procedure, and Evidence, other court rules, the Arizona Revised Statutes, Arizona case law, and federal precedent that bear on litigation in our state courts.

What’s New in the 2025-2026 Edition:

The 2025-2026 Edition includes case law developments in published opinions from the Arizona Supreme Court and Arizona Court of Appeals through April 2025, and from the United States Supreme Court through the end of the October 2024 Term in June 2025, and it also reflects any pertinent legislative enactments. The 2025-2026 Edition also addresses amendments through November 2025 to the applicable court rules, including the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure, Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rules of Evidence, and Supreme Court Rules. As a result of these and other updates, the 2025-2026 Edition features extensive enhancements to and reorganization of several discussions, including new sections ranging from expert opinion evidence in medical malpractice cases to prosecutorial misconduct in criminal cases.

The Handbook’s Approach

We have intended the volume to be a “handbook” in every sense of that word: a concise work that can fit easily into a briefcase and thereby provide a ready answer during often hectic times. More would likely be less: if the Handbook grew too bulky to carry or cumbersome to use, it would not serve as well its intended purpose. For this reason, we have sought to provide succinct answers with selected citations to leading or illustrative cases, rather than either digesting every Arizona case or providing treatise-like dissertations on the development and public policy implications of rules. The Handbook is also arranged by

subject matter, rather than tracking a particular set of rules. It is thus designed to complement the many excellent treatises, annotated rules, and digests available from our common publisher.

A major advantage of offering a new softbound edition each year—apart from the absence of pocket parts—is the ability to nimbly meet the needs of those who use the Handbook. If there are issues that you believe should be addressed—or errors that should be corrected—please let us know by emailing us at bcooper@dickinsonwright.com.

Acknowledgments

Preparing, editing, and updating a book of this magnitude necessarily involve a number of previously sung or unsung heroes. We are grateful for the vision and many years of hard work of Leslie Kyman Cooper, who was the founding author and editor of the original hardcover volume and later co-author of the paperback version. Our thanks for assistance in prior editions of this paperback version go to Jalayne Arias, Stephen R. Foster, Jefferson Klocke, Meaghan K. Kramer, Eric Moores, Joseph Nathan, Paige Nelson, and Shannon E. Trebbe. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the lawyers who authored or updated chapters in the original hardbound volume: Elizabeth A. Schallop Call, Rebecca Kozloff Collins, R. Michael Dunnigan, Catharine D. Ellingsen, James A. Fassold, Emily Froimson, Michael B. Gerdes, Lisa L. Glow, Monica L. Goebel, Jon T. Neumann, John B. Nickerson, and Tracy Lorenz Wareing. We also gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Timothy Duaz, Jamie Howard, and Alan Kyman for their assistance in research and review for the original volume, and of Sandra Glassock, Genevieve Coulson, Diane Hodges, Nanci Hoopes, and Heather Widman for their able word-processing assistance.

BENNETT EVAN COOPER
KEVIN M. JUDISCAK
TIMOTHY M. STRONG

Phoenix, Arizona
November 2025