

Author's Introduction

The primary objective of *Federal Trial Handbook: Criminal* is to give trial lawyers and judges the ability to find quick, accurate answers to their legal questions both before and during trial. As the successor author to Judge Robert S. Hunter, I have undertaken a complete revision of *Federal Trial Handbook: Criminal* over the last few years. The result of this effort has produced a book that provides practitioners with a significant amount of new hands-on, how-to-do commentary; an extensive analysis of the Federal Criminal Rules, key federal statutes and doctrines; and an expanded look at federal case law.

What's New in the 2025-2026 Edition

- The commentary in many chapters has been expanded and revised to place a greater emphasis on practice tips, how-to-do commentary, and current information that federal trial lawyers can use in the courtroom to address unexpected objections and situations.
- Additional references to important federal cases, statutes, and court rules have been added throughout the text, while older case digests at the end of many sections have been pared down or replaced with newer ones.
- Sections involving presumptions, proof of facts, defenses, and trial procedures have been expanded.
- This edition provides new and current references and citations to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, important federal statutes, case law updates, and American Jurisprudence 2d.

The editorial staff at Thomson Reuters, especially Stephen Tarolli, has provided valuable insight and guidance during the preparation and writing of this *Federal Trial Handbook*.

Now, let me comment about Judge Robert S. Hunter. Judge Hunter served as a County Judge for Adams County, Illinois from 1946 to 1954, and as a Circuit Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Illinois from 1957 to 1964. Judge Hunter was an experienced jurist, actively practicing his trade for many years in Quincy, Illinois. I did not personally know Judge Hunter, but he was widely respected as a scholar and gentleman who continued writing about the law into his nineties, long after most of his colleagues had retired from the practice of law. Each attorney who has used his Illinois and federal treatises owes Judge Hunter a tremendous debt of gratitude for his many sustained years of

FEDERAL TRIAL HANDBOOK: CRIMINAL

unselfish contribution and service to our legal profession. Judge Hunter passed on February 22, 2012, at the young age of 92. He will be missed.

I invite commentary about this and future editions of the Federal Trial Handbook: Criminal. It is important that this book serves your needs, so please communicate and tell me how it can be written to best assist your practice. My email address is sarthur@harrisonmoberly.com.

STEPHEN E. ARTHUR

Indianapolis, Indiana
December 2025