

Introduction to the 2025–2026 Edition

This 2025–2026 Pamphlet is co-authored by one of the most respected and capable trial lawyers in the history of law practice in Minnesota, and it fully updates all of the material included in earlier editions, with coverage of the new case law, new and amended rules, and expanded author insights and commentary. Topics covered include all aspects of the conduct of a trial, including motions, jury selection, opening and closing statements, the presentation of evidence, handling witnesses, instructing the jury, verdicts and judgments. New developments addressed in this update include important changes in the following areas:

- Required findings and punishment for contempt of court.
- Standard of review for proof of knowledge and intent based on circumstantial evidence in criminal cases.
- Hearsay exceptions and authentication requirements in criminal cases.
- Scope of the physician-patient privilege.
- Calculation of interest on claims for damages.
- Jury instructions on self-defense, entrapment, lesser included offenses, and accomplice liability.