

# INTRODUCTION TO THE 2025–2026 EDITION

The Advisory Committee has revised and expanded the 2025 Massachusetts Guide to Evidence to incorporate developments in the law of Massachusetts evidence. The 2025 Guide incorporates thirty-four opinions issued by the Supreme Judicial Court and the Appeals Court between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, and a number of additional appellate court decisions that did not appear in prior editions. As with prior editions, the full Massachusetts Guide to Evidence is reproduced here together with the Advisory Committee Notes. To make this edition of the Annotated Guide to Massachusetts Evidence as truly useful and up to the minute as possible, I have digested the most recent cases (including some cases not in the 2025 Advisory Committee Notes) and updated some of the tables and guides as well. I hope this edition will prove useful to the bench and bar alike.

The monumental work on the Massachusetts Practice Evidence project by The Honorable William Young and Attorneys John Pollets and Christopher Poreda since 1985 is now in my hands. These are true giants of evidence law, and I take up this project with gratitude and humility for the decades of work they have done. My first work with the rules of evidence was as a criminal prosecutor and later as criminal defense attorney while serving as a United States Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG) corp officer. Over a twenty-year military career, I had countless opportunities to work with and apply the rules first in my own cases, and later as a supervisor, trainer and mentor to young JAG officers and as a Professor in the Criminal Law Department at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia. Since my retirement from the Army in 2005, I have been on the faculty at New England Law Boston, where I have been teaching evidence law to thousands of law students currently practicing in all levels of courts across the Commonwealth and beyond. It is to these past, present, and future students that I dedicate this work. I hope that the Treatise and Annotated Guide will continue to be useful to the Massachusetts Bar and judiciary of this Commonwealth.