

## PREFACE TO THE 2025 EDITION

The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter—it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.

- **Mark Twain**, Letter, 1888

Thank you for your support of this publication I will try to carry on my predecessors' legacy of providing a useful and authoritative annotated form book—the lightning—to civil law practitioners in Connecticut.

Many of the forms in this book come with permission from the Official Court Forms of the Connecticut Judicial Branch<sup>1</sup> and the Connecticut Practice Book<sup>2</sup>. Some are from the official Probate Court Forms<sup>3</sup>. Some are no-longer official forms but might still be useful as a guide.<sup>4</sup> Others were contributed by practitioners, as indicated with gratitude in footnotes to those forms. Additional contributions are welcome.

Statements in quotation marks that are not otherwise attributed to a source come from the form being discussed. Emphasis in a form is in the original unless otherwise indicated.

Any form without a two-letter abbreviation at the beginning of the form's identification number was drafted by the previous authors, was formerly an official form as indicated in the appendix or was contributed by others.

I verified that all citations in this edition were accurate when the 5th edition was first completed and have added many new case citations. In this year's update I also included Connecticut Supreme Court cases for 2024 up to March 2025. I also added a new chapter containing all of the published forms for Connecticut Appellate and Supreme Court practice.

In years to come I hope to update older case citations, to identify relevant rule changes that I might not have noticed yet, and to add new forms and current Connecticut Supreme Court

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<sup>1</sup> <https://jud.ct.gov/webforms/default.aspx>.

<sup>2</sup> [PB.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#) Appendix of Forms.

<sup>3</sup> [Probate Court Forms \(ctprobate.gov\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> Citations to the historical bases of most forms were omitted in this edition as unnecessary and not useful to the practitioner but are available in earlier editions of this book. The last official form number of a form can be identified in this edition's Conversion Chart in the appendix, showing where a form from the 4<sup>th</sup> edition (which used the formerly official number as the form number in that edition) is now located in this 5<sup>th</sup> edition.

caselaw.

Many of the unofficial forms in this book could benefit from editing by the user, and later by me as time permits, to update archaic–lightning bug—terminology. For this edition, however, I continue to assume that all formerly-official forms are still useful and authoritative, even if the language in the form needs work. My edits so far to unofficial forms have been limited to adding more inclusive gender identifications. I did not edit any of the official forms.

*Please contact me with your suggestions, including proposed forms and/or commentary, for inclusion with attribution and sincere appreciation in next year's edition.*

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March 2025