

## PREFACE TO THE 2024–2025 EDITION

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Perhaps no other area of the law more directly, more frequently or more unavoidably affects our health, safety and welfare than municipal law. The places we live take their shape due to municipal zoning laws. The streets we walk upon are paved with our municipal tax dollars, regulated by our municipal parking rules and speed limits, patrolled by our municipal police forces, and shared by our municipal ambulances and fire trucks. Our municipal parks, playgrounds and green spaces were all created by municipal laws. Our local lawmaking bodies all function within our municipal regulations. Ultimately, it is municipal law that provides the infrastructure upon which we build the rest of our lives. Without a strong and reliable set of municipal laws, many other areas of the law become impossible to implement. It has been said that “all politics is local.” Indeed, when local laws prove inadequate, fixing those laws becomes a primary concern.

So I offer this word of thanks to those of you who have purchased this book, or used it, or have taken part in this municipal law system of ours. No system of earthly justice will ever be perfect. I express my thanks to the voters, legislators, lawyers, litigants and judges who try every day to make this system as perfect as human frailty will allow. Speaking of thanks, indulge me for a moment as I express my gratitude to my Bernadette for being the world’s best wife and mother; to my children Patrick James and Madeleine Marie for making my and Bernadette’s world a better place; to my sister Alice Rose and my brother-in-law Steve who always root for me in my every endeavor; to my Aunt Isabel whose kindness to me seems to never end; to my in-laws Jim and Alice Behan who are the perfect grandparents to my children; to my editor Alexi Maggio and her hard-working staff; and to all my other friends and family too numerous to mention who give me their moral support during this ongoing endeavor. I offer a special word of thanks to the lawyers of our state who fight for justice every day. Above all, I thank my Lord and Savior for the mercy He shows me, the ability He gives me to write this book, and for all His other gifts to me, none of which I deserve. Those who need proof that our merciful Lord bestows His blessings even upon the undeserving need look no further than me.

Hopefully this book will serve its purpose of speeding you through your legal research so you can spend less time on the

law and more time with your loved ones. As always, please keep your comments and suggestions coming. Call, text or email me anytime. I always enjoy hearing from my readers. I will answer any legal questions you may have (assuming I know the answer). Thank you for relying upon my book. I hope it serves you well. May God continue to bless us all.

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NOTE: This edition reflects all relevant legislative enactments and appellate case law decisions that were final as of June 30, 2024.