

## Introduction to the 2025 Edition

This book answers questions that regularly confront trial lawyers and judges. Although no single method can be used in a civil trial case, this book covers several strategies and approaches for addressing commonly faced problems. By the use of practice tips, examples, checklists, and forms, this book will provide trial lawyers with the basis for greater success in their cases.

This Practice Guide is written as a reference for attorneys who take civil trial cases. The structure of the book is set up to help attorneys find fast, reliable answers and practical guidance. Some of the features that enhance the practicality of the book include:

- Outline format, with dashes indicating the levels of the hierarchical organization.
- Case names, statutes and rules in italic to help them stand out from the text.
- Bold section headings for easy reference.
- Forms and checklists as a guideline for procedures and in drafting documents.

In order to perpetuate the helpfulness of this book, practice guides will be updated regularly. In the revisions, we plan to provide not only the latest changes in law, but also an increased collection of forms, checklists, and helpful examples and tips.

New features and recent developments include:

- 1:4 When supplementing discovery is required
- 1:6. Deadline for supplementing discovery—Good cause exception factors
- 2:10. Notice—Rebuttal of presumption
- 2:133. No guarantee of jury trial—Contractual waiver of jury trial
- 6:1. Definition of burden of proof
- 6:247. Waiver of privilege—Offensive use
- 6:413. Physician-patient privilege—Exceptions to privilege—Relevant to claim or defense
- 6:416. Physician-patient privilege—Exceptions to privilege—Patient's condition at issue
- 6:417. Physician-patient privilege—Exceptions to privilege—Patient's condition at issue—In camera inspection of records

TEXAS PRACTICE GUIDE: CIVIL TRIAL

- 15:35. Form of questions, instructions, omissions
- 15:41. Form of questions, instructions, omissions—Broad-form submission—Limitations of broad-form practice
- 16:100 Final versus interlocutory—Default judgments (new section)
- 16:101. Intent of court