

Preface

This annual soft-cover text explains the way cases are, can be, and may be tried in Minnesota courtrooms, hearing rooms, and arbitration forums. The materials provide lawyers with the information they need to effectively prepare and try disputes before judges, jurors, administrative judges, and arbitrators.

Each chapter focuses on a major part of the Minnesota civil advocacy process. Together the chapters explain the overall law, rules, statutes, decisions, theories, strategies, ethics, tactics, and techniques that govern and apply to the advocacy of civil trial, administrative, and arbitration cases.

Lawyers of all levels of experience will find these materials instructive and helpful. Novice lawyers will learn the fundamentals of how to effectively try civil cases. Lawyers who occasionally advocate on behalf of a client will have available what they need to properly proceed. And, experienced attorneys will find new and refreshing approaches, insights, and ideas.

All the information contained in this book reflects the broad range of civil cases and explains the whys and why nots and shoulds and should nots of civil practice. Interspersed throughout the text are comments and suggestions on why and how and what to do. You will need to determine whether to apply all these ideas and suggestions to your own cases and, if so, how.

We crafted this text with the notion that you will also discover the excitement, passion, and adventure—as well as the frustration and anxiety—that accompany the practice of civil law. It was a privilege for us to author this book. We trust you will use these materials and provide the best possible advocacy representation you can for your clients. As always, please send us your comments and suggestions for future editions.

ROGER S. HAYDOCK
PETER B. KNAPP