Preface to the 2026-2027 Edition

The 2026-2027 Edition *of Arizona Trial handbook—Arizona Practice Series* contains all the Arizona civil and criminal trial rules needed in one, concise work. Updated annually, this pamphlet is arranged topically, allowing lawyers and judges to research issues that occur before, during, and immediately after the trial phase of cases in Arizona state courts. Chapters are organized in order that events typically occur, making it easy to locate the rules and citations to statutes and illustrative Arizona cases. Current through December 2025 updates.

New features and recent developments in the 2026-2027 Edition include:

- Coverage of recent decisions
- Updates to relevant statutes
- Numerous additional case law and statutory updates
- Revised Chapter 1, "Lawyers"
- Revised Chapter 2, "Judges"
- Revised Chapter 4, "Pretrial Motions"
- Revised Chapter 5, "Contempt of Court"
- Revised Chapter 7, "Selecting a Jury"
- Revised Chapter 11, "Judicial Notice"
- Revised Chapter 15, "Opinion Evidence"
- Revised Chapter 16, "Hearsay"
- Revised Chapter 17, "Documentary Evidence"
- Revised Chapter 19, "Real and Demonstrative Evidence"
- Revised Chapter 23, "Testimonial Privileges"
- Revised Chapter 25, "Credibility and Impeachment"
- Revised Chapter 26, "Direct Examination"
- Revised Chapter 29, "Objections to Evidence"
- Revised Chapter 30, "Search and Seizure; Exclusionary Rule"
- Revised Chapter 31, "Confessions"
- Revised Chapter 32, "Mistrial"

The Handbook's Approach

We have intended the volume to be a "handbook" in every sense of that word: a concise work that can fit easily into a briefcase and thereby provide a ready answer during often hectic

times. More would likely be less: if the Handbook grew too bulky to carry or cumbersome to use, it would not serve as well its intended purpose. For this reason, we have sought to provide succinct answers with selected citations to leading or illustrative cases, rather than either digesting every Arizona case or providing treatise-like dissertations on the development and public policy implications of rules. The Handbook is also arranged by subject matter, rather than tracking a particular set of rules. It is thus designed to complement the many excellent treatises, annotated rules, and digests available from our common publisher.

A major advantage of offering a new softbound edition each year—apart from the absence of pocket parts—is the ability to nimbly meet the needs of those who use the Handbook. If there are issues that you believe should be addressed—or errors that should be corrected—please let us know by emailing us at bcooper@dickinsonwright.com.

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