PREFACE

Welcome to the 2026-2027 edition of the American Bar Association's *Legal Ethics: The Lawyer's Deskbook on Professional Responsibility*, which has been updated through August 2026. The *Deskbook* is internationally recognized as the seminal authority on the law of legal ethics and lawyers' professional responsibility. This updates the 2025-2026 edition of the *Deskbook* published in 2025. The *Deskbook* is a global reference that includes not only the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct and formal ethics opinions but also developments in ethics and lawyer regulation from state and federal courts as well as from administrative agencies.

The *Deskbook* relies upon experts in professional responsibility to maintain its currency and accuracy. The revisions in this edition are the work of two notable experts in the field: Robert A. Creamer, a former adjunct professor of legal ethics at the Northwestern University's Pritzker School of Law; and Arthur H. Garwin, former director of the Center and author of *The Paralegal's Guide to Professional Responsibility*.

It is also especially important here to acknowledge the contribution of Professor Ronald D. Rotunda, who passed away on March 17, 2018, and who co-authored, with John Dzienkowski, several editions of the *Deskbook*. Early in his legal career, Professor Rotunda served as assistant majority counsel for the Senate Watergate Committee. Professor Rotunda often cited that experience as inspiration for his life-long commitment to legal ethics and professional responsibility. He is often justly credited as the founder of legal ethics as a distinct legal discipline and practice. All users of the *Deskbook*, past, present and future, owe Professor Rotunda a debt of gratitude for his leadership.

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