

PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION 2026

The difference between the almost right word and the right word is really a large matter—it's the difference between the lightning bug and the lightning.

- **Mark Twain**, Letter, 1888

Thank you for your support of this publication, as I try to carry on my predecessors' legacy of providing a useful and authoritative annotated form book— the lightning—to civil law practitioners in Connecticut.

Many of the forms in this book come with permission from the Official Court Forms of the Connecticut Judicial Branch and the Connecticut Practice Book. Some are official Probate Court Forms. Some are no-longer official forms but might still be useful as a guide. Others were contributed by practitioners, as indicated with gratitude in footnotes to those forms. Additional contributions are welcome.

A few notes about the content of these books: Statements in quotation marks within the sections entitled "Author's Notes" that are not otherwise attributed to a source come from the form being discussed. Emphasis in a form is in the original unless otherwise indicated.

Any form without a two-letter abbreviation at the beginning of the form's identification number was drafted by the previous authors, was formerly an official form as indicated in the appendix or was contributed by others.

I verified that all citations in this edition were accurate when the 5th edition was first completed and have added many new case citations. In this year's update I also added citations to relevant Connecticut Supreme Court cases for 2025 up to February 2026.

In years to come I hope to update older case citations, to identify relevant rule changes that I might not have noticed yet, and to add new forms. I will continue to add current Connecticut Supreme Court caselaw. Your specific suggestions in this regard will be appreciated.

Most of the unofficial forms in this book could benefit from editing by the user, and later by me as time permits, to update archaic—*lightning bug*—terminology. In this edition, however, I continue to assume that all unofficial forms are still useful and authoritative, even if the language in the form needs work. So far, my edits to unofficial forms have been limited to adding more

inclusive gender identifications. I do not edit any official form.

Please contact me with your suggestions, including proposed forms and/or commentary, for inclusion with attribution and sincere appreciation in next year's edition.

Daniel A. Morris
Hartford, Connecticut
April 2026