

Preface

This annotated version of Title 39, the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Code is intended to provide the user with a practical, portable and easy-to-use resource for legal research. The book has been specifically designed with the goal of becoming an indispensable tool for busy practitioners who require speedy and accurate answers to the complex legal issues that often are a part of New Jersey motor vehicle law.

In order to accomplish this goal, the book utilizes three novel approaches to the annotations. The first is related to relevance. Rather than track older case law that no longer has any practical relevance, impact or influence on today's substantive law or procedure, the editorial choices in this volume reflect a selection of cases based upon the current state of the law. That is to say, the annotations are intended to acquaint the reader with relevant and meaningful cases that interpret, refine, explain and influence the statute in question. For the most part, the cases cited will stem from the era that began with the adoption of the current State Constitution of 1947.

The second technique is related to the organization of the citations. In order to more easily follow the historical development of the law, the annotations for each statute have been organized chronologically by court. Thus, for example, the reader will find all of the Supreme Court citations related to a particular statute listed chronologically from the most recent case to the oldest with the subject of each annotation clearly listed. The same organization will also apply to citations from the Appellate Division and the trial level courts.

Finally, the annotations themselves are designed to provide the reader with clear, concise and accurate information about the specific legal issue decided in the case and how it relates to the statute. In order to accomplish this, many hundreds of the annotations are comprised of the actual language used by the judge or justice who wrote the decision. These citations will always be found in quotations with accompanying pinpoint citations. All other annotations have also been written with the issues of clarity and accuracy in mind. Once again, pinpoint citations will be used whenever possible so that the precise point of law referred to in the annotation can be quickly found in the published

decision.

As a practical matter, it is likely that Title 39 is used more often, by more practicing attorneys and sitting judges than any other Code among the New Jersey Statutes Annotated. This is due to the fact that the statutes included within this Code touch upon such an enormously wide variety of legal disciplines, ranging from criminal law and all manner of traffic enforcement to insurance law and personal injury practice. The editorial selections related to the annotations in this volume take this into consideration and are intended to provide the maximum amount of relevant, useful and accurate information to the broadest spectrum of New Jersey legal professionals.

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