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# FOURTH EDITION

Mineola, N. Y.
THE FOUNDATION PRESS, INC.
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# PREFACE

This Fourth Edition of our casebook continues the functional integration of legal concepts pertaining to the transmission of wealth from one generation to the next which we sought in our first three editions, and it continues much the same form of organization utilized in the earlier editions.

Since our last edition went to press, there have been three major developments in the law of decedents' estates and trusts which are reflected in this edition.

First are three decisions by the United States Supreme Court which deal with constitutional problems in this area. In Labine v. Vincent, the Court dealt with the status of illegitimates in intestate succession under the equal protection and due process clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment. In Zschernig v. Miller, the Court was concerned with the activities of Oregon Courts in administering a statute pertaining to nonresident aliens as these activities might intrude upon the conduct of foreign relations. In Evans v. Abney, the Court dealt with state action as applied to a failure by the Georgia Court to exercise its cy pres power to save a charitable trust. We develop Labine and the problems stemming from Zschernig by text and have expanded our textual treatment of aliens in intestate and testate succession. We think it likely that the rationale of Zschernia will be extended to cover other areas of state court activity with which we are concerned in this book; for example, state court activity in the administration of gifts for "foreign" charitable purposes, some of which have involved the application of "retention" statutes similar to the Oregon statute. We include Evans v. Abney as a principal case in Chapter XI on Gifts to Charity.

A second major development since the appearance of our Third Edition has been the approval of the Uniform Probate Code in 1969 by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and by the American Bar Association. We have included pertinent sections of the Code in this edition. We believe that the Code will have great influence upon the shape of reform of the probate and related laws in the future and that the sections we present in this book will prove excellent springboards for class discussion.

A third development of importance was the Tax Reform Act of 1969. Although we believe that tax materials are most effectively taught in courses specialized to treatments of tax law, we include tax materials to the extent necessary to point up the tax ramifications of problems being considered. The 1969 Act, having made major changes

# PREFACE

in the law pertaining to accumulations of trust income, in the taxation of private foundations, and in the taxation of charitable remainder interests, has required revision of our tax materials. We also attempt to develop briefly for the student the possible impact upon the use of trusts and powers that might stem from enactment by the Congress of the 1969 tax reform proposals of the Treasury Department which are based on studies undertaken in the Johnson Administration and published by the Congressional Tax Committees on February 5, 1969.

There are numerous other additions. Community property materials have been expanded with particular emphasis upon the relationship of community property to elections by the surviving spouse. Several cases are included on "no-contest" clauses and abatement, subjects that were dealt with only by text in the earlier editions. New problems have been added. A number of cases in the Third Edition have been replaced in this edition by cases which we think will prove to be more teachable and stimulating. Also the text and notes have been updated to reflect the extensive legislative activity relating to decedents' estates and trusts that has occurred since the last edition was published.

Although the materials in the book have been expanded and new cases have been added, the book can still be used effectively either in a six hour course or in a four hour course if, in the latter situation, a separate course can be offered in fiduciary administration. The law of intestate succession and wills continues to be developed to a great extent by text, to the end that classroom time can be reduced in these areas.

As we have stated in our prefaces to earlier editions, our view is that teaching materials in decedents' estates and trusts should be designed to train a student in two respects. He should gain a working knowledge of the basic principles underlying the type of practice now generally described as "estate planning" and he should be prepared to conduct litigation that may arise concerning decedents' estates and trusts. Also he should be sensitized to the social and economic goals which these principles serve in order to evaluate critically current methods of wealth transmission and to guide needed reforms. No collection of materials is likely to satisfy both of these requirements. We believe, however, that the cases and materials offered in this edition can be presented, with such deletions or additions as the teacher chooses, so as to excite the interest of students and equip them, when supplemented by courses in taxation, to discharge their professional responsibilities as members of the bar engaged in the practice of the law of decedents' estates and trusts.