CIVIL PROCEDURE

SECOND EDITION

Thomas D. Rowe, Jr.
Suzanna Sherry
Jay Tidmarsh

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CIVIL PROCEDURE

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by

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To Mom and Susan

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To Hannah and Joshua

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To Chris, David, Kevin, and Clare

— J.T.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

Since the publication of the first edition in 2004, much has changed in the world of Civil Procedure. Over the last four years, the Supreme Court decided a number of significant cases that resolved circuit splits, clarified ambiguities, or altered legal doctrine. Congress enacted the Class Action Fairness Act (CAFA). New Rules provisions were adopted governing the discovery of electronically stored information. And in December 2007, the restyled Federal Rules of Civil Procedure took effect, changing the language of nearly every Rule. Lower courts, of course, have continued to issue decisions interpreting the old and new Rules and Supreme Court precedent.

We take account of all these changes in this new edition. We include five new Supreme Court cases as principal cases, and discuss eight others in greater or lesser detail in the notes. We note substantive and stylistic changes in the Rules, and include primary and secondary material on CAFA. When judicial opinions quote outdated language from the pre-2007 Rules, we remark on the changes. In addition, preparing a second edition has given us the opportunity to replace some lower-court cases with more recent, and more teachable, ones. This edition includes six new principal cases from the lower federal courts — including one decided as recently as January 2008 — and dozens more are discussed in the notes.

We have also tried to improve on the first edition by editing our own text to make it crisper, more informative, and more readable. In this we were aided by our own students and by other students and professors using the book, who pointed out errors, ambiguities, and infelicitous phrasing. We are grateful for their assistance and hope that users will continue to correspond with us. We owe thanks to John Bloomquist at Foundation Press for his continued support of this project. We also thank Ann McGuigan Jones for her wonderful proofreading of the manuscript. Finally, we continue to be inspired by our students, whose intelligence, intellectual curiosity, and enthusiasm drive us to become ever better teachers and authors.

Durham, North Carolina Nashville, Tennessee Notre Dame, Indiana March, 2008

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

As is often the case, this book had its source in the authors' desire to provide a new perspective on Civil Procedure. We wanted to write a book that was short and intellectually sophisticated, exploring both doctrinal and theoretical themes in a book of manageable length. We have therefore tried to combine — both in the choice and editing of cases and in our own text — depth, brevity, and clarity. We also aimed for adaptability, adding modularity to our structure to allow teachers to pick and choose what to teach and what to omit. The reader can judge whether we have accomplished our goals.

A word on the cases and other non-original material: We follow the ordinary convention of signaling substantive changes or omissions with brackets and ellipses. But we have omitted citations and footnotes without notice, and we have also added or altered citations and non-emphatic italicization within cases to conform to modern academic usage. Readers should therefore not assume that the materials as printed are identical in form to the originals.

Finally, this book could not have been written without the help of many other people. We would especially like to thank our deans — Katharine Bartlett at Duke, Kent Syverud at Vanderbilt, and Patricia O'Hara at Notre Dame — for providing both tangible and intangible encouragement and support. Steve Errick and the members of the editorial board at Foundation brought the authors together and helped make the project a reality. Six Vanderbilt law students tirelessly and conscientiously citechecked, proofread, and generally kept us honest and consistent: Christine Anthony, Amy Bohannon, Charles Canter, Meredith Capps, Brendan McLaughlin, and Liza Wirtz. Jesse Schomer at Notre Dame provided additional research We are also grateful to the department of Information Technology Services and Solutions at the Vanderbilt University Law School, especially Michael Curatolo, who set up a Web-based document library for the three of us to share, taught us (and retaught us) to use it, and responded to all our emergency calls for help. Our assistants - Maya Jackson at Duke, Janelle Steele at Vanderbilt, Debbie Sumption and Debbie Blasko at Notre Dame, and Peggie Flynn at Harvard — took charge of the voluminous correspondence inevitably generated by three authors at different schools. made multiple copies of multiple drafts, and generally provided on-the-spot assistance. Professor Rowe would also like to thank his mother-in-law, Senior Ninth Circuit Judge Betty Fletcher, for editorial suggestions on Chapter 6, Appeals. Finally, we thank our students at Duke, Harvard, Michigan, Minnesota, Notre Dame, and Vanderbilt for providing the inspiration for this book and for keeping us on our toes.

Durham, North Carolina Nashville, Tennessee Notre Dame, Indiana May, 2004

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