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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN LAW SCHOOL

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Preface to the Third Edition

The Third Edition retains what we see as the primary virtues of the prior editions. For students, the book is accessible, but not dumbed-down: without “spoon feeding,” our framing questions and explanations guide students to key points and doctrines rather than turning Con Law into a doctrinal treasure hunt. This leaves more class time to explore large themes, underlying policies, and critiques.

For professors, this is one of the few Con Law casebooks that you can teach your own way, without having to fight the book. This book offers structure but not stricture, comprehensive coverage without backbreaking bulk. Our “Expansion Pack” system — which to our knowledge remains unique among Con Law casebooks — offers numerous supplemental modules that can be added to or substituted for sections in the book. These (along with other supplemental materials) are contained on a separate website with a link provided in the Teacher’s Manual. The materials are formatted PDFs in a form ready to send out to students electronically. This system allows you to customize your course while still following the book’s basic structure. And that structure, by the way, is quite streamlined. As you can see in the Summary of Contents, the book is organized into five parts of two chapters each, which cover all the essential doctrines of Constitutional Law. The book can be used for any general Con Law course, whether offered in the first semester or later, and whether it covers governmental structure, individual rights, or both.

For prior adopters, our message is this: we have improved and updated the book without a significant increase in length. Although we’ve been selective about incorporating new cases, there have been enough important ones in the past four years that we’ve had to cut material in order to make room. But fear not: *all material cut from the Second Edition remains available in the form of Expansion Packs on the electronic materials web page.*

For adopters who teach Constitutional Law to 1L students, we recommend assigning part or all of a chapter-length Expansion Pack entitled “Introduction to Constitutional Law and Analysis.” This supplementary chapter contains useful information about the various patterns of constitutional cases, how constitutional challenges are litigated, how they reach the Supreme Court, and how to read Supreme Court opinions.

In our book, cases and other primary readings are generally preceded by “Guided Reading Questions” which highlight key points and doctrines that students should be looking for. Following the primary readings, our “Review Questions and

Explanations” synthesize key points, provide context or clarification to the case just presented, and prompt students to make connections, think critically, and address broader themes. We have made a concerted effort to keep these questions on point and limited in number. Many casebooks provide notes and questions that venture too far into tangents and prove distracting; we believe ours avoid that trap.

An additional benefit to students is the book’s low cost. Not only is the main volume about 40% less expensive than competing Con Law casebooks, but **our annual supplement — which is a profit center for other publishers — is provided as a free PDF.**

We welcome your feedback and suggestions about the book. We have already incorporated some adopters’ suggestions into this edition. And because the Teachers’ Manual and electronic supplement page can be updated on an annual basis, we are in a position to incorporate your suggested improvements without having to wait for a new edition.

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