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This book is dedicated to the future generations of Tribal Nations who have been prayed for and planned for over seven generations. We recognize that our children will carry forth our traditions, lifeways, knowledge, languages, ceremonies, and evolve our laws. For these future generations, we offer this book's words of wisdom and discussions of legal principles as a guide to build upon and as a foundation to grow the knowledge necessary to continue to protect and enjoy Tribal worldviews and ways of living.

With the high rates of foster care and adoption of Native children, Tribal Nations are strengthening Tribal courts and Tribal laws to ensure Native children are protected by Tribal legal systems and placed in homes connecting them to their Tribal families and communities. This generation of Tribal leaders, advocates, lawyers, and judges are devoting efforts to safeguard the futures of their children and grandchildren. We know the profound importance of supporting families, making spaces to heal intergenerational trauma, and the centrality of self-determination for a better and increasingly hopeful future.

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SERIES EDITOR'S FOREWORD

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We hope that you will enjoy studying with, and learning from, the Mastering Series.

Russell L. Weaver
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