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This book is dedicated to the Indigenous women leaders who are culture holders, intellectuals, knowledge keepers, nurturers, lawmakers, and life-givers in our Tribal Nations. We stand on the shoulders of matriarchs who dreamed our current world into being as we dream of the betterment of our tribal communities for the next seven generations.

As we write this edition, we also remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls who have lost their lives as part of the ongoing cycle of violence against Indigenous women. We grieve the loss of these mothers, daughters, sisters, nieces, aunts, and cousins and the loss of their dreams, talents, visions, and hopes for our communities.

We write also with hope in our hearts as we see Native women returning to leadership roles across the nations and at every level of government. We are guided by the great love of Native women that keep our peoples strong. From the Cheyenne tradition, we keep the following in mind. “A nation is not conquered until the hearts of its women are on the ground. Then it is finished no matter how brave its warriors or how strong their weapons.” We hope this book continues to strengthen our resilient Tribal Nations and inspire our next generation of leaders.

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Series Editor's Foreword

The Carolina Academic Press Mastering Series is designed to provide you with a tool that will enable you to easily and efficiently “master” the substance and content of law school courses. Throughout the series, the focus is on quality writing that makes legal concepts understandable. As a result, the series is designed to be easy to read and is not unduly cluttered with footnotes or cites to secondary sources.

In order to facilitate student mastery of topics, the Mastering Series includes a number of pedagogical features designed to improve learning and retention. At the beginning of each chapter, you will find a “Roadmap” that tells you about the chapter and provides you with a sense of the material that you will cover. A “Checkpoint” at the end of each chapter encourages you to stop and review the key concepts, reiterating what you have learned. Throughout the book, key terms are explained and emphasized. Finally, a “Master Checklist” at the end of each book reinforces what you have learned and helps you identify any areas that need review or further study.

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

Russell L. Weaver
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