

An Introduction ❧ to Law for ❧ North Carolinians

Thomas H. Thornburg

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Preface

The work of the Institute of Government often requires teaching law to people who are not lawyers. All public officials must understand the particular laws with which they work. The people of North Carolina must understand and follow a wide variety of laws. But first, officials and the public may need basic information about the law—what it is, where it comes from, its many forms, and its applications and effects in operation. This small book was written to meet those needs.

This is a revision of the fine first edition published by the Institute of Government in 1985. It was written by Michael Crowell, a former Institute faculty member, and Margaret Taylor, a former Institute managing editor. The heart of the book remains unchanged; this edition includes several updates and an expanded discussion of some subjects. The Institute is indebted to Crowell and Taylor for creating this excellent resource.

I thank Michael Crowell and Institute faculty members Fleming Bell and Jim Drennan for reading this new edition in draft form. I also thank the Institute Publications Division for making this book possible.

Tom Thornburg

February 2000

