

About the Author

Sara DePasquale is the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Term (2020-2022) Associate Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the author of this February 2022 edition and was the primary author of the 2019 and 2017 editions. She specializes in child welfare law, with a focus on abuse, neglect, dependency; termination of parental rights; adoptions of minors; legitimation; and judicial waiver of parental consent proceedings. She teaches, writes for, and consults with judicial officials, attorneys, and other professionals who are involved in these types of proceedings.

Special Acknowledgement to Jan S. Simmons

Jan S. Simmons is a research attorney at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill whose projects include *Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings in North Carolina*, the *North Carolina Clerk of Superior Court Manual Series*, and the *North Carolina Trial Judges' Bench Book, District Court Edition*.

This Manual would not be possible without Jan's keen eye, attention to detail, strong work ethic, and commitment. Jan has worked on this Manual with Sara DePasquale to produce the 2017, 2019, and February 2022 editions. Over these years, Sara taught Jan the substantive law, and Jan taught Sara how to write, edit, format, and be responsible for a manual. I am incredibly appreciative of Jan's work, friendship, and humor, without which, I am sure I would have given up on creating the Manual available to you all today. Thank you Jan, my dear friend and respected colleague.

Special Acknowledgement to Others

The North Carolina Court Improvement Program of the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts provided financial support for this Manual, without which this Manual would not have been possible. NC-CIP manager, Kiesha Crawford provided logistical and moral support for the various editions. NC-CIP is a federally funded project to improve court practice in child abuse, neglect, and dependency cases. The program's mission is "to improve the performance of North Carolina's Juvenile Courts in abuse and neglect cases so that safety, permanence and wellbeing for each child are achieved in a fair and timely manner." NC-CIP's support for this Manual is one example of its many efforts in that regard. More information about NC-CIP is available on the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts website, [here](#).

John Rubin had the original idea to create this Manual, and it was his efforts that made this Manual possible. He is the primary author of Chapter 11 (Evidence) and has provided moral and technical support to the authors throughout all the various editions of the Manual. He is

an Albert Coates Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government. He specializes in criminal law and procedure and indigent defense education and teaches, writes for, and consults with indigent defenders, judges, magistrates, and others who work in the court system.

UNC School of Government Colleagues: Mark Botts is an Associate Professor of Public Law and Government and specializes in mental health law. Thankfully, Mark authored the sections of Chapter 14 that discuss confidentiality laws related to medical, mental health, and substance use records. Timothy Heinle is a Civil Defender Educator and agreed to update the lengthy chapter on Evidence. He also provided much needed moral support and encouragement to me throughout this writing process. Caitlin Little is an Analyst and Research Attorney, who performed the painstaking and necessary task of checking all the updated and new citations, all the hyperlinks, the chapter cross-references, and the content revisions for every chapter and checklist. Kevin Justice designed the front and back covers, offered format advice, and managed the pdf documents so that a print on demand version is available for those of you who desire a printed version. Melissa Twomey answered random questions that would appear in her inbox about citations, grammar, and other issues the team did not know the answer to. Stefanie Panke provided the technical support for the online availability of this Manual. Other colleagues, too numerous to name, assisted in reviewing some content and/or provided moral support throughout the update and revision process. Thank you.

Others: This is the sixth edition of this Manual. The first three editions (2011, 2014, 2015) were authored by Kella Hatcher, Janet Mason, and John Rubin. The availability of this Manual for all professionals working in child welfare is due to their hard work, commitment, and input. Various attorneys provided support on earlier editions of the Manual by reviewing requested content or by being a member of the former advisory committee, which contributed to the first two editions of this Manual. The Manual has benefited immeasurably from the time and expertise of these professionals who provided invaluable feedback and insight.