

## Dedicated to Jan S. Simmons

This 2023 edition is dedicated to **Jan S. Simmons**. In 2023, Jan retired from her position as a research attorney at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Among her many projects, Jan worked on the 2017, 2019, and 2022 editions of this Manual. Jan's patience, keen attention to detail, work ethic, commitment to the process, and friendship improved this Manual, and the School of Government as a whole, in ways too numerous to name. Jan's impact continues because of the lessons she taught me. Thank you Jan.

## About the Author

**Sara DePasquale** is a Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In addition to this edition, she was the primary author of the 2017, 2019, and 2022 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. She has received the School's Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Teaching Excellence Award (2023), the Albert and Gladys Hall Coates Distinguished Term Associate Professorship (2020-2022), and the Margaret Taylor Writing Award (2015).

## Special Acknowledgement to Caitlin Little

**Caitlin Little** is a Legal Research Associate at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Although Caitlin works on various research projects, one of her primary projects is this Manual. For this edition, Caitlin took on the important and tremendous task of reading, proofing, and cite checking existing and new content, reviewing hyperlinks, addressing formatting issues, and providing various suggestions for improvement. As part of her work on this Manual, Caitlin now summarizes published North Carolina child welfare appellate opinions. Caitlin approaches her work on this Manual with a positive and can-do attitude.

## 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 has provided moral and technical support to the authors throughout all the various editions of the Manual and has been the primary author of Chapter 11 (Evidence). After decades of service at the School of Government, where he specializes in criminal law and procedure and indigent defense education, John is working part-time as he transitions to retirement.

#### **UNC School of Government Colleagues**

**Mark Botts** is an Associate Professor of Public Law and Government and specializes in mental health law. Mark authored the sections of Chapter 14 that discuss confidentiality laws related to medical, mental health, and substance use records.

**Timothy Heinle** is a Teaching Assistant Professor with a focus on civil defense. He updated the lengthy chapter on Evidence, Chapter 11. He also provided much needed moral support and encouragement to me throughout this writing process.

**Kevin Justice** designed the front and back covers, offered format advice, and ensures that a print on demand version is available for those of you who desire one.

**Other colleagues**, too numerous to name, reviewed content and/or provided moral support throughout the update and revision process. Thank you.

#### **Others**

This is the seventh 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 a former advisory committee, which contributed to the first two editions. The Manual has benefited immeasurably from the time and expertise of these professionals who provided invaluable feedback and insight.