

## About the Authors

**Sara DePasquale** is an Associate Professor of Public Law and Government at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and primary author of this 2019 edition. Before joining the School's faculty, she spent seventeen years practicing law as a civil legal services attorney in Maine, representing low-income individuals and families in family law, education, housing, and public benefits matters. She specializes in child welfare law, with a focus on abuse, neglect, dependency; termination of parental rights; adoption; 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.

**Jan Simmons** is a research attorney at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before coming to the School, she practiced law for eleven years in Chapel Hill, Princeton, New Jersey, and Atlanta, in the areas of bankruptcy and local government law. Her projects include revising *Abuse, Neglect, Dependency, and Termination of Parental Rights Proceedings in North Carolina*, the *North Carolina Clerk of Superior Court Procedures Manual*, and the *North Carolina Trial Judges' Bench Book, District Court Edition*.

## Special Acknowledgements

We specially thank original authors 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.

**Kella Hatcher** was the lead author of the 2011, 2014, and 2015 editions of this Manual. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force. Previously, she worked as Associate Counsel for the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program where she authored the *North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Attorney Practice Manual* and served as chair and co-chair of the Juvenile Code Revision Committee for the North Carolina Court Improvement Project.

**Janet Mason** retired from her position as a Gladys Hall Coates Professor at the School of Government in 2015. For over thirty years, she dedicated her career to serving the children of North Carolina by assisting professionals who work in juvenile proceedings in the North Carolina court system. She shared her dedication to and knowledge of this substantive area of the law with the authors (past and present) of this Manual.

**John Rubin** had the original idea to create this Manual, and it was his efforts that made this Manual possible. He is the 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.

**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, and former manager, Lana Dial, also 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](#).

**Additional Support** for the 2019 and 2017 editions was provided by our School of Government colleagues, Ann Anderson, Mark Botts, Jacquelyn Greene, Cheryl Howell, James Markham, Meredith Smith, Melissa Twomey, and Aimee Wall, who assisted in reviewing content, shared ideas, and provided moral support throughout the update and revision process. Stefanie Panke provided the technical support for the online availability of this Manual. Robby Poore designed the front and back covers. Caitlin Little worked on those numerous finishing details including checking new citations, hyperlinks and internal cross-references.

A special thank you to the following attorneys who reviewed requested content in either the 2017 or 2019 edition: Natalie Bacon, former North Carolina Assistant Attorney General; Margaret Burt, a private practitioner in Rochester, New York who specializes in the Indian Child Welfare Act; Lori R. Gershon, J.D., MPA Candidate 2021; Annick Lenoir-Peek, with the Office of Parent Representation at the North Carolina Office of Indigent Defense Services; LaToya Powell, our former colleague now with the Office of General Counsel at the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts; Barbara Parker, Program Manager of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Family Safety; and Reginald O'Rourke, III with the Guardian ad Litem Program at the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts.

**A Former Advisory Committee** contributed to the first two editions of this Manual. The Manual benefited immeasurably from the members' time and expertise, as they provided invaluable feedback and insight throughout that drafting process. Members of the committee were Sydney Batch, Frederick R. Benson, Susan K. Button, Rick Croutharmel, Lana Dial, Alice Anne Espenshade, Whitney Fairbanks, Deana K. Fleming, Alisa Huffman, Judge Debra A. Sasser, Wendy Sotolongo, and Jane R. Thompson.