

The Judges' Book

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Foreword

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Foreword

The Honorable Daniel Bress
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What is this volume, *The Judges' Book*? It sounds like a secret text that should be kept hidden from public view, to be consulted only in “break glass” moments of judicial humility. It turns out that is not the case. Judging is not some dark art. Unsurprisingly, this book therefore lacks any magical incantations that a judge could use to conjure the right answer to the difficult legal problems that courts confront every day. What *The Judges' Book* does contain, however, are the thoughtful efforts of careful scholars who ask us to take a step back and assess significant developments in the law over recent years. From civil procedure to torts, constitutional law to international law, *The Judges' Book* showcases the diverse legal problems that courts must resolve, with reflective observations from leading academics.

The book, as its title indicates, is meant to be of use to judges. I am confident it will be. Mixing theory and practice, doctrine and history, the articles in *The Judges' Book* aim to inform those whose day-to-day jobs require legal decision-making. But what is of use to judges is surely of use to anyone who shares what Justice Scalia described as our national obsession with the law. In an age in which it is wrongly assumed that valid contributions to public discourse should be limited to 280 breathless characters or less, *The Judges' Book* reminds us that true comprehension of the law requires deeper thinking and more measured evaluation.

I am grateful to Editor-in-Chief Scott Dodson and the many other contributors to this book, whose commentary is sure to provide thought-provoking insights into problems old and new. *The Judges' Book* is not an answer key to the great legal questions of our time. It is something better: an acknowledgement that these issues are best evaluated with the type of fair-minded reasoning that the writers of this volume have offered. This book will be a valuable resource to our common profession, and to all who share a passion for law and learning.