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Preface to the Second Edition

We are proud to release this second edition of the North Carolina Civil Commitment Manual. Our aim has been to create a clear, usable resource for attorneys appointed to represent respondents in civil commitment cases. We hope this edition of the manual continues to meet that goal. We also hope the manual will be a useful source of information for others who work in this challenging area.

We have the honor of writing this preface, but much of the credit for the manual belongs to others. First, the manual reflects the extraordinary work of the first edition’s lead author, Lou Newman, who practiced law for many years in Wake County. She had just the right combination of qualities to get the project off the ground: experience as a respondent’s attorney, expertise in the law, and a talent for synthesizing the valuable input we received from the editorial board on the first edition.

Second, thanks go to Rob Stranahan, Special Counsel, Central Regional Hospital, who read drafts of this edition, and to the members of the first edition’s editorial board—Mark F. Botts, Associate Professor of Public Law and Government, UNC School of Government; Becky C. Zogry, Esq., Kernersville, NC; Judith L. Kornegay, Esq., Rocky Mount, NC; Willia G. Mills, Special Counsel, John Umstead Hospital; Rob Stranahan; and Eric J. Zogry, Juvenile Defender, Office of Indigent Defense Services. They volunteered their time to review each chapter, offer their insights into the civil commitment process, and endure long meetings to see the manual to its conclusion.

Third, we gratefully acknowledge the talents and contributions of Kathryn Burke, legal editor, who read, scrutinized, tightened, and improved every aspect of our work.

Last, this manual would not have been possible without the support of the Office of Indigent Defense Services and the UNC School of Government. Their collaboration on this and other educational projects has enhanced the resources available to indigent defense attorneys and has improved the service that indigent defenders are able to provide their clients. We also want to thank Owen Dubose, Katrina Hunt, Kevin Justice, and Angela Williams with the publications division of the School of Government for their assistance in designing, producing, and distributing the manual.

Comments and suggestions are welcome. They may be sent to John Rubin at the School of Government, CB #3330, Knapp Building, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 27599-3330. He also can be reached by telephone at (919) 962-2498 or by e-mail at rubin@sog.unc.edu.

Respondents’ counsel who have additional questions about civil commitment cases are encouraged to contact Ben Turnage. He may be reached by telephone: (919) 731-3437;
e-mail: Ben.M.Turnage@nccourts.org; or mail: Cherry Hospital Courthouse, Stevens Mill Road, Goldsboro, NC 27530.

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