Since 2002, the Forum on Franchising has published Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments as a separate book that reviews all of the most significant decided cases in franchising, distribution, and related fields over the prior 12 months. Following in this venerable tradition, Corby Anderson of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Charlotte and Clay Tillack of Schiff Hardin LLP in Chicago have undertaken the substantial task of reviewing hundreds of cases and summarizing and organizing them so that their fellow practitioners will have easy access to the latest developments that affect their practices on a day-to-day basis. The scope of this task becomes apparent when you look at the breadth of the subject matters covered, including the elements of a franchise relationship, franchise registration and disclosure, industry-specific statutes affecting the franchise relationship, disputes regarding performance, termination, and transfer, intellectual property, other federal and state law issues, control-related liability of franchisors, issues specific to litigation and arbitration, and international franchising. We are deeply in their debt for the untold hours spent on this project, away from their families and otherwise billable matters, and for producing (on time!) an outstanding product providing insightful analysis. Our gratitude to Corby and Clay for undertaking this enormous task is difficult to describe in words. The efforts they have devoted to research and writing have been substantial, but the result is as an important contribution to the outstanding continuing legal education for which the Forum on Franchising is known.

This book forms the foundation for our signature and always much-anticipated Annual Developments plenary session, held this year in Palm Desert, California, during which Corby and Clay will review the most important cases decided and help all of us discern the sometimes complex and shifting trends in franchise and distribution law across the country and in the world.

In 2016, the Forum on Franchising introduced its first ever searchable database, which will enable members to access all of the information in this volume on our website. Please access our Law Library at
https://www.americanbar.org/directories/forum_on_franchising.html to gain even greater and more versatile benefits from this publication.

I also want to extend our deepest thanks to Bethany Appleby, a member of our Governing Committee, and co-author of the 2010 Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments book, for her invaluable role in assisting and guiding Corby and Clay in this mighty endeavor throughout the last year. We are also indebted to Tao Xu, of DLA Piper, who helped determine which international jurisdictions would receive coverage in the book and recruited and supervised country specific authors for that chapter. Thanks go as well to Jim Goniea, who served as our Publications Officer during the production of this book.

Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments is one of the core elements of our continuing mission to be the preeminent forum for the study and discussion of the legal aspects of franchising. I know that you will find this book to be a valuable resource.

On behalf of the entire Forum on Franchising, thank you so much, Corby and Clay!

Eric H. Karp
Chair, Forum on Franchising
2017-2019