

# Foreword

Many family law attorneys view detailed knowledge of the UCCJEA like most homeowners view alarm systems—a nice idea but not necessary at present. That's a dangerous approach.

Given that many UCCJEA cases start as emergencies, family law attorneys need to know the UCCJEA before a crisis hits. Marie Fahnert's book is a great step in that direction.

I'm a family law attorney in Illinois and a winning appellant in a UCCJEA case heard by the Michigan Supreme Court. I've seen firsthand the difference between an attorney who knows the UCCJEA and one who plods through it like a toddler crawling through a room full of razor blades. Make no mistake—this book is essential to navigating the nuances of a law that at times can create as many problems as it solves.

This book can help family law attorneys achieve three desirable goals. First, it will provide an understanding of the UCCJEA that will allow an attorney to hit the ground running when confronted with a complicated UCCJEA case. Second, it enables an attorney to have a go-to reference guide to help zero in on specific issues during the heat of battle. Third, and perhaps most importantly, Marie Fahnert's book can enable attorneys to employ foresight in preparing for the many dangerously nuanced potential pitfalls that plague many UCCJEA cases.

I strongly recommend this book to all the attorneys whom I will not face in a UCCJEA case.

—David Wolkowitz