

INTRODUCTION

Payment bonds have been the topic of many industry publications over the years, including the first two editions of the *Payment Bond Manual*. The *Payment Bond Manual, Third Edition*, is intended to provide the reader with a basic primer of payment bond law for 53 jurisdictions. The Manual contains a section for each of the 50 United States, as well as the territory of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and Federal Miller Act payment bonds. Each chapter contains brief descriptions of the statutes and case law relevant to each jurisdiction and is intended to provide a basic understanding of payment bond law for both surety company claims professionals and practitioners. Each chapter is not intended to present a comprehensive analysis of payment bond law for each jurisdiction, but instead provides a starting point for the analysis and strategy for handling payment bond claims within each jurisdiction.

In almost every jurisdiction, the Manual provides a brief synopsis of the law broken down into various subsections, which is then followed by the statutory citation and the relevant statutory excerpts that support the statement of the law. To the extent that the respective jurisdiction has decided case law that highlights or interprets the law of the jurisdiction, those case annotations are provided. As one would expect, however, there are some jurisdictions where the law of payment and related bonds is quite plentiful. In order to keep this Manual to a user-friendly size, the editors found it necessary in some instances to merely provide the reader with reference to statutory citations rather than inserting all the relevant statutory excerpts. Please note that the statutory law citations referenced herein are current as of the date of publication of the Manual. In that the law can be dynamic, the reader who is intending to rely on a law as excerpted in the Manual is cautioned to check for any modifications to the law as necessary.

The reader will notice that the *Payment Bond Manual, Third Edition* appears different in format from the prior two editions. The format presented in this edition evolved from the editors' discussions with company representatives and surety law practitioners over the past three years or so. It is our express anticipation that the reader will find this edition of the Manual easy to read and utilitarian in scope.

The *Payment Bond Manual, Third Edition* should be used in tandem with the ABA Publication *The Law of Payment Bonds*. Whereas the *Law of Payment Bonds* breaks down payment bond law into various subject categories and then provides case law annotations from a variety of jurisdictions, the *Payment Bond Manual, Third Edition* provides a survey of the law in each of the 53 jurisdictions contained herein.

The hard work and dedication of each of the contributing authors is acknowledged and appreciated. Their willingness to revise their works to fit an unfamiliar format and to strive to reach consistency throughout all of the jurisdictions covered in the Manual for the benefit of the readers was admirable.

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