

---

## PREFACE

---

---

The third edition of this publication is both an update and expansion covering a wide range of trucking-related topics for both over-the-road and vocational trucking. While covering many of the same areas as the previous edition, the majority of this publication is new content. We have also structured the book in a more user-friendly layout, with each major section relating to a specific aspect of the trucking case, i.e., the driver, the vehicle, the motor carrier, the crash investigation, and litigation aspects. The content of this publication is intended to provide the reader with a strong understanding of the trucking industry and to assist in the handling of a CMV case from initial intake through trial. Much of the content of this book assumes intermediate to advanced legal experience, as well as a basic working knowledge of trucks, tractors, and trailers.

In this publication, there is a distinct separation between over-the-road trucking and vocational trucking. Typically, a commercial vehicle case brings to mind the common semi-tractors and van trailers seen crisscrossing the country every day; however, often overlooked are the dump trucks, garbage trucks, concrete mixers, cranes, tow trucks, and snow plows used every day to get work done in every city, county, and state. In this edition, we have defined over-the-road trucks as those whose sole and primary function is to pick up freight and deliver it to its destination, whereas vocational trucks are those whose primary function is to assist in the completion of a task. While a vocational truck may transport cargo, the vehicle is designed to do more than just haul the load.

We are fortunate to have regular contact with some of the best experts as well as plaintiff and defense attorneys in the country, many of whom have graciously contributed to this publication. The contributing authors of this book come from a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives, including attorneys from both bars, engineers, accident reconstructionists, drivers, mechanics, and safety professionals. These individuals have provided expertise and knowledge on all aspects of the trucking industry and truck crash investigation, and created one of the most comprehensive collections published to date.

We offer a heartfelt thank you to all those who participated in the development, creation, and completion of this book. We recognize the efforts of all of the contributors for their input throughout the process, and for their immeasurable contributions to this publication. We offer a special thank you to our

graphics artist, Jacki A. Orr, for her efforts in designing and creating many of the graphics in this publication. We wish to again thank our employer at Ruhl Forensic, Inc. for allowing us and many others at our firm to devote a significant number of hours toward the completion of this edition.

The materials contained herein represent the opinions of the individual author(s) of each respective section, and should not be construed as the opinion or action of either the editors; Ruhl Forensic, Inc.; the American Bar Association; or the Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section unless specifically noted or adopted pursuant to the bylaws of the Association.

Laura L. Ruhl, Esq.  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
Editor

Mary K. Dooley-Owen  
Champaign, Illinois  
Editor