The idea for this book came from members of the ABA Forum on the Construction Industry, Division 8: “International Construction.” In June 2006, Robert Beaumont, former Chair of Division 8 and former member of the Governing Committee, approached me about serving as the Executive Editor for the development of a new book project on international construction law, as I had recently spoken on the topic of international construction arbitration at the Forum’s 2006 Annual Meeting in San Diego along with Michael Black, QC and George Pierson, both members of the Forum and Division 8. Given the favorable reception of both the program at the Annual Meeting and our program paper (later published in the Spring 2007 issue of Construction Lawyer), Bob thought the book would be well received.

Shortly thereafter, I began drafting a proposal for the book, including a proposed outline and literature review. I quickly discovered that there was no existing book or treatise that focused exclusively on the proposed subject matter. While there were certainly lengthy treatises in existence that included the topic of international construction law among their volumes—including Steve Stein’s Construction Law and Bruner & O’Connor’s excellent multi-volume set—there existed no stand-alone book on the subject.

I was fortunate to solicit (and receive) the assistance of Robert Beaumont, Arthur Brannan, Andrew Ness, and Doug Oles, all longtime members of the Forum and Division 8 leadership, who served as co-editors for the project. Their combined experience, knowledge base, and meticulous editing skills were essential to making this project a reality.

The project was approved by the Publications Committee in January 2007 and the editorial team began the effort of fleshing out the outline and identifying authors for the eleven chapters. We were fortunate to have so many willing volunteers from Division 8 and other divisions of the forum, who are well known in their own right for their knowledge and writing abilities. These authors provided ideas and enthusiastic support for the book from its inception. Without the support and dedication of the authors and editorial team, this project would not have been completed.

Due to the breadth of the subject matter and the multitude of laws potentially applicable to any given international construction project, it was not possible to cover every aspect of international construction law in a single treatise. However, the authors did an excellent job of highlighting the key
issues faced by U.S. companies and their lawyers in connection with construction projects that cross international borders, as well as providing practical tips for the reader. The book is intended as a starting point for construction firms engaging in cross-border transactions. In nearly every case, it will be necessary for the firm and its counsel to explore the particular circumstances, laws, and customs applicable to a particular transaction or dispute. This will often require the assistance of local counsel knowledgeable about the relevant local laws and customs.

Although the book turned out to be a much greater endeavor than originally anticipated—in terms of both writing and editing time—it truly became a labor of love that we are proud to have now completed. We want to express our appreciation to everyone in the Forum on the Construction Industry without whose support and assistance this book would not have been possible.

_Wendy Kennedy Venoit, Executive Editor_  
_October 2009_