ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is the product of a national movement aimed at recognizing the importance of parents’ attorneys in the child welfare system. At the heart of this movement is the Steering Committee of the American Bar Association’s Project To Improve Parent Representation, whose members drafted many of the chapters in this book. In particular, Mimi Laver, the project director, deserves credit for organizing and sustaining this movement. Without her tireless efforts and the work of the Steering Committee, this book would never have come into fruition. As such, all proceeds of this book will be donated to the work of the ABA Project.

The book is also a tribute to the lawyers who work in this field. Most of the authors of the chapters practice daily in court fighting to ensure that the law is faithfully followed. They are underpaid and overworked, with excessive caseloads. Despite this, they have shared their expertise by writing a chapter in this book to help lawyers everywhere get better at doing a very difficult job. This book could not have been written without their contributions.

We would also like to thank Jennifer Garrett and Misha Ross, who spent countless hours meticulously reviewing drafts of chapters, checking cites and ensuring that the book flowed smoothly from one chapter to the next.

Finally, we would like to thank the thousands of parents’ attorneys across the country, who fight to keep families together under difficult conditions. Our hope in creating this book is to give them the tools they need to advocate successfully for their clients while also persuading stakeholders that the time has come to properly invest in parent representation throughout the country.