Preface

The American Bar Association endorsed the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in February 2012. It did so recognizing both the impact that business activities have and can have, for better or worse, on human rights and the symbiotic relationship between the business and legal communities. Every day, lawyers advise businesses large and small on virtually all aspects of their operations. Clients are well advised on all facets of the law—domestically and internationally, that impact how they conduct their activities and at what risk. Indeed, reputational risk has grown exponentially in recent years as a major concern to private sector, particularly in a human rights context.

This Business, Human Rights, and Sustainability Sourcebook is therefore a timely resource for the practicing corporate lawyer or policy advocate. It provides a complete and detailed picture of the field, from policy development to blackletter law. It offers solid options to engage in the field, whether providing legal advice to executives, marshalling arguments in litigation, or developing legislation.

I wish you a rewarding experience in this dynamic field of law and policy, Sourcebook in hand.

Deborah Enix-Ross
Chair, Business and Human Rights Project
American Bar Association Center for Human Rights
Fall 2015