Since 1978, when I first joined the North Dakota Supreme Court, only ten of the Court’s cases have involved an interstate compact. Such a few number of cases hardly deserves a treatise, but the complex relationships that compacts create between the states, the unique interplay between compacts and state law, and current growth in the use of compacts does deserve a treatise. I am also reminded of my time as a young Assistant Attorney General during which I was a legal counsel to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. At that time, in the mid-1970s, Frederick Zimmermann and Mitchell Wendell had just finished updating their 1961 work, *The Law and Use of Interstate Compacts*. Then 30 years went by before the next treatise on compact law, the first edition of this book. Now, this second edition is by far the most comprehensive treatise on the law and use of interstate compacts.

Interstate compacts are not widely understood, even as their use among the states is steadily increasing. Despite their use in governing a wide range of the daily lives of many Americans, compacts are simply not taught in K-12, college, or law school. The authors of the second edition of this treatise provide an in-depth look at these compacts from their historical basis to their current use, including their administration, inner workings, and advantages, as well as their downsides. As science and technology have enabled people to travel the country virtually as well as literally, the use of interstate compacts to share authority of the states in order to ensure the ability to resolve mutual challenges and the equal application of the rule of law is becoming more commonplace. The authors provide a comprehensive analysis of the legal as well as the practical implications of the ever-growing use of interstate compacts to share that authority, including chapters on litigation involving compacts, parties to the compact and compact agencies.

The authors write from a somewhat unique standpoint, different from that of most lawyers and judges. The authors have written several compacts, currently work with or have worked with several compact agencies and legislatures, and teach compact law. Their experience, knowledge, and insights shared in the treatise give us an invaluable look from the inside and the impact of interstate compacts on their member states and the nation.

The treatise is an extraordinary resource for those interested in the workings of interstate compacts, as well as a worthwhile resource for legislative, executive, and judicial officers and lawyers. I am grateful the authors have made this definitive work available.

Gerald VandeWalle