

PREFACE

This fourth edition of the ABA's revisions to the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School's *Contract Law Deskbook*, is long overdue. When I returned from an expatriate assignment in 2015, I undertook the task of revising the previous edition, this time with the assistance of Robert Wu at the GAO and his fellow members of the Public Contract Law Section's Young Lawyers Committee. With their assistance, we were able to update references, add new chapters (which do not appear in the JAG School's version), and revise many other chapters to include material useful to contractor attorneys and the private bar. We have also deleted some material that is of interest solely to military attorneys. The American Bar Association is solely responsible for these changes, and the reader should not attribute these changes to the United States Army, or to any member of the JAG School faculty. We based this revision on the 2014 edition of the JAG School Deskbook, and the contributors from the Contract and Fiscal Law Department are those active duty faculty members listed in that work.

Since the last edition, there have been many changes in government contract law. The executive branch has implemented several policy initiatives through the power of federal contracting, including revised labor policies. Similarly, Congress has implemented changes, including regulation of contractor business systems, trafficking in persons, and provisions addressing problems that have been identified in the past decade, such as perceived misuse of previous changes such as commercial items. What has not changed is the basic system of acquiring goods and services for the federal government. We still have a FAR and DFARS; competitive negotiations and truth in negotiations; changes and differing site conditions; a Court of Federal Claims and Boards of Contract Appeals. While the system is constantly evolving, we haven't seen dramatic changes such as occurred in the 1980s and early 1990s.

Over the past several decades, these materials have become one of the principal references for government contracts attorneys, along with Nash and Cibinic's landmark textbooks. The Deskbook has been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court, served as the foundation for numerous continuing legal education materials, and is used daily by hundreds of attorneys. Each and every faculty member in the Contract and Fiscal Law Department at The Judge Advocate General's School, U.S. Army, and the members of the Public Contract Law Section's Young Lawyers Committee can be proud of their contributions to this work.

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