Speaking for the entire Governing Committee and Senior Appointed Leadership of the Forum, I want to heartily congratulate Elliot R. Ginsburg of Garner & Ginsburg, P.A. and Elizabeth M. Weldon of Snell & Wilmer L.L.P. for their outstanding work and effort on this 2018 edition of Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments. Elliot and Elizabeth are longtime contributors to the Forum and enthusiastic supporters of its mission to be the preeminent forum for the study and discussion of the legal aspects of franchising. Participating in this endeavor is one of the most time-consuming and challenging projects that the Forum offers to its members.

The scope and scale of this undertaking can be measured by the hundreds of cases that the authors review, evaluate and summarize as well as the broad range of topics covered. These include the definition of a franchise, franchise registration and disclosure, relationship issues, intellectual property, litigation, common law, antitrust, vicarious liability, and international franchising. So we are doubly grateful for the many hours that they have spent on this project, which they could have spent on client matters or with their families. The result is a vital and invaluable resource for all of our members.

This book will be the springboard for this year’s Annual Developments plenary session, held in Nashville, Tennessee, during which Elliot and Elizabeth will walk those assembled through the most important developments in franchising both in the United States and around the world.

Many thanks go also to Ron Coleman, a member of our Governing Committee, our Technology Officer and Webmaster and the co-chair of the 2017 Annual Forum on Franchising in Palm Desert, California, for his central role in overseeing this project, ensuring a high quality product that arrived on time. We are also indebted to Frank Robinson, of Cassels Brock, who helped determine which international jurisdictions would receive coverage in the book and recruited and supervised country-specific authors for that chapter. Thanks go as well to David
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Oppenheim, also a member of our Governing Committee, who serves as our Publications Officer.

On the behalf of the entire Forum on Franchising, thank you so much, Elliot and Elizabeth!

Eric H. Karp
Chair, Forum on Franchising
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