It is a privilege to serve as the editor and one of several contributing authors for this volume of From the Trenches, titled Pretrial Strategies for Success. This volume follows two prior successful volumes published by the American Bar Association in 2015 and 2017. Embodied in this current volume are important and invaluable insights from experienced trial lawyers from across the country. Each author volunteered his or her time, skill, and experience in making From the Trenches Volume 3 a reality.

The topics addressed in Volume 3 are wide ranging, but focus on strategies and techniques to enhance the chances for successful resolution of lawsuits and disputes. The topics begin with discussions of pre-suit tasks and options, including investigations, pre-suit mediation, and pre-suit discovery. The topics also include practice tips for enhancing case organization after the lawsuit is filed, effective advocacy, use of jury consultants, forum selection strategies, and important considerations for witness selection and final trial preparations.

As a result of the editing process, and having reviewed each chapter in this book, it is remarkable that there is a common thread that runs throughout the many diverse topics. It is clear that all of the authors place a premium on effective case management, early planning and preparation, and strategic and creative approaches to issues.

The contributing authors of From the Trenches Volume 3 come from large, medium size, and small firms from across the country, including Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Missouri, Illinois, Virginia, Rhode Island, Texas, New York, Washington, Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana. Many of these authors contributed to past volumes of From the Trenches, and their credentials are well known. Many are leaders within their respective firms and bar organizations, and many enjoy national reputations and trial practices going far beyond their home states. Their collective trial experience is vast. Consistent with the goals of both Volume 1 and Volume 2, this current volume, Pretrial Strategies for Success, is prepared as a general reference tool for both beginning lawyers and seasoned trial veterans. As a group, we hope the practice tips and insights are well received.

Many of the contributing authors of this book are affiliated with either the Network of Trial Law Firms or the Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel (FDCC)—both of which are equally distinguished organizations. I want to thank both organizations for providing me with an opportunity to meet such distinguished trial lawyers. I also want to thank each of the authors for their substantial efforts and insights reflected in this book.

Sawnie A. McEntire