

# Foreword

For as long as I have known Miles Mason, he has been a thoughtful leader and practitioner in the domestic relations arena. I first got to know Miles over 18 years ago when we were traveling the Tennessee circuit together, lecturing from Knoxville to Nashville to Memphis. From that experience, as well as from observing him present several exceptional continuing legal education programs in Atlanta, I have come to understand that Miles is indeed one of the foremost authorities in the country on forensic accounting and business valuation in family law cases. Over the years, Miles has always been available to me and to others in our Atlanta, Georgia, firm to help with questions in this area, and we have benefited greatly from his advice. *The Forensic Accounting Deskbook* is the end result of over ten years of thought and energy that he has devoted to the subject, and it is wonderful that he has decided to share it with the rest of us.

Despite my having practiced family law for well over 20 years, as I read *The Forensic Accounting Deskbook*, I realized how inadequate my skills and knowledge are. From the beginning of the book all the way through to the very end, Miles makes it easy to understand the often-complex subject matter he discusses while at the same time making you aware of how much more there is to know. He then feeds it to you like spoon-feeding a baby. From the basic concepts and practical sample deposition questions to forensic accounting methodology and techniques, this book is a must-have for any practitioner of family law who handles cases involving contentious financial issues—and who doesn't?

While Miles is too humble to brag about himself or his family, I assure you there is much to brag about. Aside from his successful legal career and bar career, as well as being the leader and founder of his firm, Miles has an amazing family. His oldest daughter graduated from Savannah College of Art and Design here in Georgia, his son is a U.S.

Marine, his youngest daughter is in college developing her creative writing skills, and Sharon, his wife, is a joy.

I want to keep this foreword short since your attention span is better used in reading Miles's words, not mine. The importance of this book to the divorce practitioner, however, cannot be overstated. It is required reading for all members of our firm. While I have never enjoyed reading about tax issues and financial documents, *The Forensic Accounting Deskbook* was an easy read; it put me at ease, reassured me that much of what I do is correct, and educated me about other techniques, practices, and procedures that I need to improve upon. Thank you, Miles, for making me a better lawyer and for helping not only the readers of this book but also the general bar as a whole.

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