INTRODUCTION

National security related issues dominate the news in current times, and national security related law and policies are often key components of the discussion. The text of law and key policies provides a solid foundation for analysis, discussion, and understanding. My guiding tenet is “Know the Law, Find the Way.” Whatever your role in the national security field—legal practitioner (government, corporate, private), judge, journalist, academia, legislator, or general public—this updated compendium of national security related laws and policy documents presents you with an excellent primary source to review the legal landscape.

This source book is unique in the national security related field and is prepared and sponsored by the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Law and National Security. Educating people on national security related legal topics—through speakers, podcasts, speakers, conferences, and publications—is a vital purpose of SCOLNS. Accordingly, members of this committee are experienced in the various aspects of national security law and lend their expertise to make this desktop reference thorough and current.

I am honored to be the new Chair of this standing committee, after recently retiring from federal government service where I practiced law for more than 30 years. Early in my career, I ventured into intelligence community activities and national security related law when this area of law was practiced by a few, not taught or available in any but a couple law schools, and case law was scant. It was excellent intelligence practitioners who guided and mentored me through the gray world, and who invited me to attend this committee’s events. These events, particularly the annual conference on the review of national security law, were invaluable to building my knowledge and understanding in this field of law, as well as developing a network of expert practitioners. I wish this source book had been available 30 years ago! It would have made knowing the law and finding the way much easier and faster. May this book be useful to your practice and other endeavors in national security law and policy.

Cynthia R. Ryan
Chair, ABA Standing Committee on Law and National Security