About 20 years ago, I completed and published the second of a two-part series of books on equine law titled *Equine Law & Horse Sense*. Never did I expect the tremendous reception these books would receive. They sold worldwide. Equine studies programs across the country included them in their curricula as required reading. Law school libraries bought them. Some associations sold them to their members, while other associations gave them to their members.

As years passed, not surprisingly, laws changed (such as equine activity liability acts), and courts issued new cases on equine-related issues. While the Internet made information access easier than ever, my equine law books still had useful purposes to fulfill. It was time to update and expand them. A busy law practice, combined with numerous personal and professional commitments, unfortunately left little time to write. This book took years to complete. I hope you find it was worth the wait.

I applaud the American Bar Association for approaching me to write this book. By producing it, the ABA has clearly recognized that the equine industry is large, diverse, and passionate about high standards for horse ownership and activity. This book is designed not only for people, businesses, and organizations in the horse industry but also for the lawyers who serve them.

Regardless of your preferred equine breed or discipline, you will find in this book general information to help you understand how the law impacts you if you have been threatened with a lawsuit from someone who has been injured by one of your horses or if you yourself are injured while riding or handling another person’s horse. This book will help you understand the need for contracts and why details matter, such as details that could help a boarding stable save the life of a sick horse with an unreachable owner. You will learn about how to avoid disputes with your insurance company and about commonsense strategies to help protect the existence of your horse operations within communities that have become increasingly urbanized and less welcoming to horses. When others advance age-old myths—such as “releases aren’t worth the
paper they’re written on” and “everyone assumes the risk, and stables can never be sued”—you can knowledgeably reject them.

Certainly, this book is not a substitute for legal advice. However, if this book helps non-lawyers identify legal issues and inform you as to when you should seek legal help, it will have accomplished its purpose. The book should also prove beneficial for lawyers as a resource to better serve their clients on common equine matters. It is my hope that this book will better inform you about the law and help you continue to use good “horse sense” for many years to come.

Best wishes for many years of fun, safety, and success in your horse-related activities.