
FOREWORD

The 43rd Annual Forum on Franchising is, indeed, unusual. The Covid-19 pandemic forced the Forum to do what it does best: adapt and thrive in challenging times. What is not unusual is the dedication of the team that developed our Annual Developments plenary program, which is always (whether we are physically apart, as is the case this year, or together in person, which we hope will be the case next year in Atlanta) the highlight of the Forum on Franchising's annual meeting. The yearly edition of the *Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments* is the definitive summary of franchise-related cases and other significant developments and serves as the basis of the Annual Developments plenary.

Every year, the Forum asks two of our colleagues to commit a year of their lives to the daunting task of reading, analyzing, and summarizing franchise and distribution cases and developments and distilling them into an easily readable single volume. The unquestioned quality of the Annual Developments plenary, and the commitment and excellence of the Forum members who accept the challenge confirm the Forum on Franchising as the preeminent authority on franchise law. The 2020 *Annual Developments* book continues along the path of excellence.

This year's authors, Ben Reed (partner at Plave Koch in Reston, Virginia) and Antonia Scholz (partner at Cheng Cohen in Chicago, Illinois), graciously accepted the challenge. At the time that they did so, they did not realize that much of their work would be done from their home offices, while managing their busy practices and juggling their family and personal responsibilities as well. Their work is absolutely first-rate, and we are indebted to them for remaining focused on this critical project at a very difficult time.

Of course, we are grateful to the extended team of individuals, without whom this 2020 edition of *Annual Franchise and Distribution Law Developments* would not be possible. Thanks go to our 2020 Program Co-Chairs, Gary Batenhorst and Elizabeth Weldon; Heather Carson Perkins, who co-presented Annual Developments in 2019 and served as Program Director for the 2020 Annual Developments; and the entire ABA publications team, especially the very talented editor, Sarah Orwig. The sterling reputation of

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ABA Forum on Franchising publications continues, thanks in large part to the teamwork demonstrated on projects like *Annual Developments*.

Well done, Antonia and Ben!

Will K. Woods

Chair, Forum on Franchising