

PREFACE

This new edition is current through December 31, 2016.

This Seventh Edition of *The Developing Labor Law* (DLL) is the fourth time that I have had the honor and pleasure of being its Editor-in-Chief. It all began in 2001, when I co-edited the Fourth Edition with Patrick Hardin, then a professor at the University of Tennessee Law School. Pat and I had previously worked together in the NLRB General Counsel's office. He was and is a very good friend who was most gracious in teaching me the editing ropes.

I then took over as Editor-in-Chief for the Fifth Edition. In the years since, I have heard many compliments about the book and about how it is viewed by many as the "go to" text in labor law. Importantly, and as I readily tell all, I cannot claim the credit for DLL and for the fine book that it is. Rather, that credit goes to the many Section attorneys who have worked on it since Charlie Morris edited the First Edition in 1971. Their commitment to the Section and the book is what makes DLL what it is and what makes being Editor-in-Chief sheer joy.

DLL users also owe a great debt to the dozens of Co-Chairs of the Committee on the Development of the Law under the NLRB who have guided the publication of the seven editions and of the annual cumulative supplements. Most recently these Co-Chairs have been Patrick Deady, Barry Kearney, Anna Wermuth, Steven Wheelless, and Gwynne Wilcox. I am most grateful to each of these individuals. They were always there when I needed assistance.

My thanks also goes to Joseph J. Torres and Dina H. Metz at Winston & Strawn LLP. They provided all the administrative help for which one could ask. Finally, my thanks to Anne Scott and Steffan Welch at Bloomberg BNA. Anne recently retired from her position as Senior Book Editor and Steffan, Managing Editor, stepped right in and was there to carry the project to completion. I hope Anne enjoys her retirement. She deserves it. Bloomberg BNA, the Labor

and Employment Law Section Publications program, and I all lost an invaluable resource and friend when Anne retired.

As I said in the Preface of the Sixth Edition, I have been blessed with having a family that supported my career at the Board, my teaching at the Columbus School of Law of Catholic University of America, and for many years, my efforts on this book. My parents, the late John and Catherine Higgins, my late wife Frances, my children David, Beth and Jack, and their children (eleven in all) have all in one way or another contributed to this book and to making me into the person I am today.

I am very proud of my family and I am grateful to them for their love and understanding. As I say, I have been truly blessed.

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