PREFACE

The Third Edition of The Railway Labor Act incorporates the perspectives of leading management, union, and government practitioners into an authoritative text that should prove invaluable in advising clients in all aspects of representation disputes, as well as major, minor, and statutory disputes under the Railway Labor Act (RLA). The treatise has been meticulously researched, containing references to more than 1,200 decisions, and also includes the text of the RLA as well as the National Mediation Board’s (NMB’s) regulations and Representation Manual. It presents a balanced, exhaustive analysis from experts in the field, and, as with past editions, the treatise includes a discussion of: the similarities and differences between the RLA and the National Labor Relations Act; the legislative history of the RLA; the scope of coverage of the RLA, with respect to carriers, and employees and subordinate officials; the selection of a collective bargaining representative, a “soup-to-nuts” discussion of the NMB’s representation function; judicial protection of employee rights under the RLA; the negotiation and enforcement of collective bargaining agreements; the exercise of self-help; and the preemption of state and federal claims by the RLA.

Noteworthy additions to the Third Edition include the following:

• A new chapter devoted exclusively to mergers, acquisitions, and other corporate transactions in the airline and railroad industries, including a discussion of the application of the NMB’s Merger Procedures regarding representation rights, the effect of mergers and
acquisitions on rights under existing collective bargaining agreements, the effect of the Surface Transportation Board’s protective conditions in the railroad industry, and the effect of the McCaskill-Bond statute regarding seniority integration in the airline industry.

- A discussion of contract-formation decisions pertaining to collective bargaining agreements.
- A substantially reorganized chapter dealing with the enforcement of collective bargaining agreements, including a new discussion of RLA cases on procedural and substantive arbitrability.

I hope that you find The Railway Labor Act to be helpful to your understanding of the RLA.

Chris A. Hollinger
San Francisco, California

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