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I have written, co-authored, or co-edited some twenty-nine books, and these volumes are my eleventh book-length work on this subject. With each successive book, I become more aware how much I owe to many benefactors.

A platoon of excellent professors at the University of Miami Law School launched my legal education. Remembering many of them gratefully, I express my particular thanks to Minnette Massey. Several members of the Harvard Law School faculty provided further stimulation during my graduate year in residence there.

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I have appreciated the willingness of the leaders of my law schools to support very long-term research. I note that these volumes build upon five decades of that research. Those books originally began publication life in a work published in 1987 by Warren Gorham & Lamont and continued through editions under the Butterworths label. It is symbolic of the continued growth of the law that this edition approximately quadruples the size of the first edition. CCH/Wolters Kluwer expanded the work in editions published in 2001 and 2010. I have been especially grateful for the wise guidance of Pam Maloney, managing editor for Wolters Kluwer Law and Business, for her implementation of the process that has brought into print the sixth edition in 2013, as well as its immediate predecessor.

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My work as an Adviser to Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability deepened my knowledge of the law in many ways. I learned much from discussions among the Reporters and Advisers and in the cut and thrust of debate on the floor of the American Law Institute. The late Charles Alan Wright, then president of the Institute, provided great encouragement in this endeavor.

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I mention in the Introduction the controversy that has surrounded this subject in the halls of Congress. I have had the honor of testifying to senatorial committees on the subject several times. Some of my testimony drew sharp comment from the senators who invited me, but their invitations always guaranteed a respectful audience. These occasions have advanced my knowledge of the subject and have further sensitized me to its political complexity. Since judge-made law is at some level politics—Tocqueville’s observation that major American issues tend to wind up in court has the corollary that disputed questions of substantive law sometimes wind up before legislatures—these experiences have contributed to my scholarship. They also have confirmed me in the belief that our democracy is a pretty wonderful institution. I found myself moved to say to Senator Stafford on one occasion that I wished my parents had lived to know that I was discussing the law with United States senators. That is no small privilege, and for me it is no trivial symbol of the freedoms we enjoy.

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