Preface

As a legal academic driven by the constant search for truth, I grew increasingly uncomfortable with the many exaggerations, half-truths and misconceptions about autonomous vehicles and the technologies behind them that began to appear frequently in the popular press. When these were transferred into academic literature, I became alarmed.

As a computer scientist, I knew that quite a number of the claims and exaggerations were just that. They had little or no foundations. What concerned me was that there appeared to be a tidal wave sweeping up the unsuspecting. Some regulators and well-meaning legal scholars were presenting papers at conferences on autonomous vehicles and artificial intelligence without a proper grasp of the underlying technology. Some made fantastic claims that were not supportable.

This book is an attempt at inter-disciplinary discourse. It is hoped that it will bring about a general understanding of the technologies in an accessible manner and to utilize this understanding to move forward in the task of formulating sound and ethical laws, regulations and policies concerning autonomous vehicles.

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Hannah YeeFen Lim
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