

# Acknowledgements

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The two editors of this book are best described as ‘hands-on’ academics. We have both maintained our credentials as lawyers after moving into the academy from legal practice. A co-founder (in 1989) of Melbourne’s first community legal centre specializing in immigration and refugee law (known now as Refugee Legal), Mary has taken a particular interest in the plight of migrant children over many years. In 2006, Lenni began holding trainings for *pro bono* attorneys at New York Law School to expand the pool of attorneys prepared to represent child migrants. In 2012, as the numbers of unaccompanied minors arriving at the south west border of the United States grew exponentially, she founded the Safe Passage Project, a law school clinic combined with a non-profit representing hundreds of children via direct and mentored *pro bono* services.

This book has involved considerable work and commitment on the part of many people. We are deeply grateful to each of our contributors and for their patience in reviewing and revising their work so as to give a sense of unity and fluency to what would otherwise be a very diverse collection. Research for this book was made possible through the support of private donor, Ms Judy Harris; research funding by New York Law School and private donor, Sheila Wellington; and before that, the Australian Research Council, Linkage Project LP100200596 ‘Small Mercies, Big Futures: Enhancing Law, Policy and Practice in the Selection, Protection and Settlement of Refugee Children and Youth’. In 2015, many of the authors met at the University of Sydney (supported by Sydney Law School) and later that year New York Law School convened a meeting of many of the US authors. We thank NYLS alumnus Lap J. Wong who donated funds to support the second of these gatherings.

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This book was prepared during a time of enormous need and fast paced change. It brings together authors from across the globe to write on various aspects of law, policy and practice relevant to children on the move both generally and in specific regions. Unless otherwise indicated, the material is current to November 2017. The views expressed by each of the individual authors are theirs alone and should not be attributed to other authors or to organizations they may represent.

Mary would like to dedicate this book to Gerard, Daniel, Kate, Virginia, Liang (Pheap), Riz, and Ali; and to all the migrant children they (and others) have brought into her life. Lenni dedicates this book to her family: John, Max, Lily, Bill, Shelly, Timm and Jacque. She also remembers her grandmother Hilda Baer, an unaccompanied minor child smuggled into the United States in 1907 by a desperate family fleeing persecution. Finally, she thanks the remarkable staff and volunteers of the Safe Passage Project who every day defend the rights of migrant children.