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FEDERAL JUDICIAL CENTER PUBLISHES FOURTH EDITION OF *MANUAL FOR COMPLEX LITIGATION*

The Federal Judicial Center—the research and education agency for the federal courts—has published the fourth edition of its *Manual for Complex Litigation*. The *Manual*, created in response to large numbers of protracted federal civil cases in the 1960s and continuing today, has guided federal judges in managing complex civil litigation, such as class action cases involving claims of employment discrimination, securities fraud, and antitrust violations.

An impetus for the latest revision of the *Manual* was the increasing number of claims for damages allegedly caused by defective products—cases generally referred to as “mass torts”—such as asbestos and diet drug personal injury cases and polybutylene pipe and Masonite siding property damage cases. In 1998 Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed a Mass Tort Working Group to study the phenomenon’s impact on courts. That group recommended that the Center provide guidance to judges through a new edition of the *Manual*.

In 1999, the Chief Justice appointed a Board of Editors to guide the revision process. Judge Stanley Marcus (Miami) a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, served as chair. Federal District Judges John C. Koeltl (New York), J. Frederick Motz (Baltimore), Lee H. Rosenthal (Houston), and Barefoot Sanders (Dallas) were members as were attorneys Sheila Birnbaum (New York) and Frank A Ray (Columbus). District Judge Fern M. Smith (San Francisco), Director of the Federal Judicial Center from 1999 to 2003, headed the Center staff’s contributions to the new volume. Numerous judges, attorneys, and law professors reviewed various chapters.

Judge Barbara J. Rothstein, the Center’s current director, said “Judge Smith aptly characterized the *Manual* as ‘one of the flagship services of the Federal Judicial Center.’” Congress created the Center in 1968 and the *Manual*’s first edition was one of its earliest publications.

In the fourth edition., the fields of mass tort and class action litigation required the most attention, but users will also see new material on employment discrimination, Superfund cleanup, patent, copyright, and trademark, and investment fraud cases. The *Manual* includes a new chapter on scientific and other expert evidence, drawing heavily from the Center’s *Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence, Second Edition* (2000), and takes account as well of improvements in court technology and emerging problems associated with the use of electronic documents in business and in litigation.

The *Manual* is available on the Center’s Web site at www.fjc.gov. The Center distributes the manual free to the federal judiciary. The public may purchase copies from the U.S. Government Printing Office (toll free: 1-866-512-1800) and bookstore.gpo.gov or Matthew Bender Publishing Co. (1-800-833-9844) or West Group (1-800-344-5009).