

## About the Authors

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**Michael B. Apfeld** is a shareholder in the Milwaukee office of Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. He is a member of the firm's litigation practice group, concentrating in appellate and complex motion practice in commercial matters, and is also co-chair of the firm's ethics and loss prevention committee. He received his B.S. from the University of Notre Dame in 1976, graduating Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, and as valedictorian of his class, and his J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law in 1979, graduating cum laude and a member of the *Northwestern Law Review*. He joined Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. in 1982, after working for several years in Chicago. Mr. Apfeld has written and spoken on a variety of topics, including appellate practice, legal ethics and conflicts, hostile takeovers, products liability, and various aspects of contract law. He has appeared before the Wisconsin Supreme Court, all four districts of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, the Illinois Court of Appeals, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Seventh, Tenth, Eleventh, and Federal Circuits, and a variety of U.S. district courts. He is a member of the State Bars of Wisconsin and Illinois and the Milwaukee and Seventh Circuit Bar Associations and is a past member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Standing Committee on Professional Ethics.

**Kenneth B. Axe** is retired as a partner in Boardman & Clark LLP, where he concentrated his practice in commercial litigation. He received his B.A. (magna cum laude) from Drew University in 1976 and his J.D. (cum laude) in 1979 from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where he was a member of the *Wisconsin Law Review*. Before entering private practice, he was a law clerk for the Honorable Paul C. Gartzke in District IV of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. He is the author of several articles on business law, bankruptcy law, and school law, including *Dealing with the Dealers: Scope of the Wisconsin Fair Dealership Law*, Wis. B. Bull., Aug. 1981; *Penetrating the Iron Curtain: Representing Secured Creditors in Chapter 11 Reorganization Proceedings*, Marq. L. Rev. (1984); *Creation, Perfection and Enforcement of Security Interests in Intellectual Property Under Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code*, 119 Bkg. L.J. 62 (Jan. 2002); and *Who Is a Religious or Ministerial Employee*, Wis. Law., Dec. 2012. He coauthored "Relationship Between Manufacturers and Distributors: Fair Dealership Act and Related Contracts," chapter 8 in *The Wisconsin Business Advisor: Business Organizations* (State Bar of Wis. 2006). He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

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**Steven W. Laabs** is a partner in the Milwaukee office of Husch Blackwell LLP. He primarily represents closely held businesses and their owners in a variety of corporate, commercial finance, and real estate transactions, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, private offerings of debt and equity capital, and business succession planning.

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**Richard J. Sankovitz** is a former circuit court judge in Milwaukee County. He now practices mediation and arbitration full time at Resolute Systems in Milwaukee. During his 22-year career on the bench, which included two tours of duty in the civil division and one in the family division, he presided over many a contract-interpretation dispute. He is a graduate of Marquette University and Harvard Law School, and he clerked for the late, great (then) U.S. District Court Judge (later U.S. Court of Appeals Judge) Terence T. Evans. Before taking the bench he was a shareholder in the law firm of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C. His practice concentrated in commercial and antitrust litigation. He handled cases in state and federal court at both the trial and appellate levels. In addition to litigating a wide variety of contractual disputes on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants, he regularly advised clients and other lawyers on contract negotiation and drafting. He is active in the State Bar of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Bar Association.

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