About the Authors

John D. Neal was born in Louisville, Kentucky, and grew up in Kankakee, Illinois, and Baltimore, Maryland. He received a B.A. in 1969 from Boston College, an M.A. in English literature in 1970 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a law degree in 1972 from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Mr. Neal was a worker's compensation administrative law judge for the state of Wisconsin from 1973 to 1980. Since then, he has worked for Stafford, Neal & Soule SC, Madison. Mr. Neal taught a course in worker's compensation law at the University of Wisconsin Law School (2008–14). He was accepted as a Fellow in the national College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers in 2010 and speaks to groups of lawyers and others on the topic of worker's compensation law from time to time. His law practice has been and is limited to representing the interests of injured workers in claims for worker's compensation in Wisconsin. Mr. Neal continues to enjoy assisting those injured workers on a formal or informal basis.

Joseph Danas, Jr., is a shareholder in the firm of Borgelt, Powell, Peterson & Frauen, S.C., Milwaukee. He received his B.S. from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and his J.D. from Valparaiso University Law School. Before entering private practice, he was a hearing examiner (administrative law judge) for the Worker's Compensation Division of the former Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor & Human Relations. Mr. Danas concentrates his practice in the defense of worker's compensation cases.

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