

PREFACE

Over 15 years ago, the Young Lawyers Section of the Arkansas Bar Association assumed the responsibility of producing the First Edition of the Consumer Law Handbook. In the summer of 1999, the Young Lawyers Section published the Second Edition. Since that time, tens of thousands of copies of the Handbook have been distributed to the people of Arkansas to aid them in understanding the laws that control many of their consumer transactions. This year, the decision was made to revise and update the Handbook to reflect changes in the law.

This Third Edition has new information and provides relevant citations to the law to educate the public about the consumer protections afforded to them under federal and Arkansas law. This Third Edition will also serve as a valuable reference tool for members of the Arkansas Bar Association.

The information contained in this Handbook is derived from the laws of the state of Arkansas and the United States government. We have attempted to address many issues that face Arkansans on a daily basis. The information in this Handbook is current and will help many people find the answers to any questions they might have about their rights as consumers. This Handbook, however, is provided merely as a public service. It is not a complete examination of the many laws affecting consumers. The Young Lawyers Section of the Arkansas Bar Association encourages readers to consult an attorney or the appropriate government agency for specific legal information.

Many members of the Young Lawyers Section donated their time, talents, and energies to author the various sections of this Handbook. Their contributions were made in the spirit of public service and reflect the ideals of the Arkansas Bar Association. The Young Lawyers Section of the Arkansas Bar Association sincerely thanks them for their efforts.