

Acknowledgments

This book would not exist if Lynn Churchill, acquisitions editor at Aspen, hadn't asked me to write it. She first suggested that I might enjoy, and be good at, writing a casebook on business entities. She also shepherded me through the process of submitting a book proposal. As she suspected, I have very much enjoyed writing this book. Thank you, Lynn.

My development editor was Susan Boulanger. Actually, Susan and I have only communicated by email. It is entirely possible that "Susan Boulanger" is someone's *nom de crayon bleu* or that she is a collective person, like Carolyn Keene. Nonetheless, I believe she exists. I had no idea what a development editor was until Susan introduced herself. It turns out that a development editor is sort of a personal coach. She gave me tips for dividing the writing into manageable parts. She also tried to keep me on deadlines that I, myself, had blithely agreed to meet. Nonetheless, I missed (often by a significant margin) every single deadline. She took my drafts and sent them to anonymous reviewers, collected their comments, synthesized them, and helped me to accept and understand them. More than anything else, though, Susan provided enormous support to me during the long writing and re-writing process. That support has been of incalculable help. I am deeply thankful for your help, Susan.

This casebook has been improved a great deal by the anonymous reviewers. I was astonished at the care with which they read the manuscript. They had insights and perspectives that I never would have considered. Thank you, for engaging so thoroughly with me. Lauren Arnest copy edited the manuscript and improved its readability significantly. Thanks, Lauren. The unforgettable Laurel Ibey was the manuscript editor. She answered many of my questions (and posed many more) and ensured that the book sailed through the production process. I appreciate all you've done, Laurel.

A number of my colleagues have helped in this effort. John B. "Jack" Kirkwood used drafts of this book in several of his classes and provided me much valuable feedback. He also provided a fair bit of help with the economics portions of the text. He was very generous with his time, as well, amounting to hours of conversation on topics large and small. Thank you, Jack. Russell Powell also used this casebook in two of his classes and also gave me his reaction to it. I know the book is much better than it would have been without their help. Annette Clark helped to convince me to accept Lynn Churchill's suggestion that I write this casebook and also provided support during the periods when I was particularly discouraged. My Deans, Rudy Hasl and Kellye Testy, provided financial support during the summers, when much of the manuscript was written and edited. I appreciate their support. Finally, my secretary, Laurie Sleeper, coordinated endless details, answered questions from students and colleagues, and obtained all the permissions. Thank you very much, Laurie.

Probably a dozen or more classes of business entities used all or portions of this book. I appreciate their patience with me and with the development of the manuscript. I told them they were beta testing it, but they were really alpha testing it. Many of them provided helpful comments and I appreciate their taking the time to do so.

I have been blessed with having a number of absolutely terrific research assistants. Laura Weber, Carli West, Cabrelle Able, Sarah Massey, Chris Wyant, David Petteys, Hallie Eads, Erin Warren, Samia Staehle, Diana Chamberlain, and Jason Knight all did work above and beyond what was necessary. They were literally indispensable to me in writing this book. A very large thank you to each of you.

I'm also quite thankful to the Starbucks Corporation and Caffè Ladro in Seattle, Washington. The vast majority of the text was written in their fine establishments and I highly recommend them to other authors and coffee drinkers.

Throughout the entire process of producing this tome one person has been uppermost in my thoughts as the person whose intellect and cast of mind most resemble my own. He is the Reverend Edward Casaubon. I do not blush to say that I have followed his example in the way of pigeon-holes. If my small book bears even the faintest resemblance to his book¹, then I shall have acquitted myself well, indeed.

¹ EDWARD CASAUBON, THE KEY TO ALL MYTHOLOGIES (forthcoming).