

Introduction and Acknowledgments

As that famous Virginian Thomas Jefferson wrote to Samuel Kercheval, “[t]he true foundation of republican government is the equal right of every citizen, in his person and property, and in their management.” The Virginia Declaration of Rights, the Virginia Constitution, and the U.S. Constitution all recognize this foundational principle. These two volumes detail how courts affecting Virginia law – both state and federal – have considered the issue of eminent domain. In creating these reference volumes, I included more case facts and procedure than is usually found in other case finder works. Volume One contains all relevant reported cases concerning condemnation and eminent domain from the Virginia Supreme Court and Virginia trial courts of record. Volume Two contains all relevant reported cases concerning condemnation and eminent domain from the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. The purpose of these more detailed summaries is to give the reader sufficient information to understand the decisions, as sometimes similar facts have yielded different results. The volumes are divided into chapters on the general aspects of eminent domain, with an index to help locate and answer specific inquiries.

It has been a privilege to work on these volumes for the Property Rights Project at the William and Mary Law School. The Project’s primary mission is to promote the exchange of ideas on the importance of property rights to individual liberty. Each fall it brings in scholars, jurists, and the practitioners from the property rights bar to give lectures and discuss issues related to constitutional protection of property rights at the annual Brigham-Kanner Property Rights Conference. The Property Rights Project also recognizes outstanding contributions of individuals to the field of property rights scholarship and practice with the Brigham-Kanner Property Rights Prize awarded each year at the conference, and publishes the *Brigham-Kanner Property Rights Journal*.

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Judge Jonathan M. Apgar, Retired
Twenty-third Circuit of Virginia