

Preface

The aim of this book is to develop materials that would supplement a basic course in labor law or serve a special seminar. The focus throughout is on the issues and developments that a well-informed U.S. labor lawyer needs to keep abreast of in today's increasingly integrated world economy. Five areas of interest inform the organization of the book: (1) the labor and immigration issues involving the U.S. as a host employer and regulator of U.S.-based enterprises and labor organizations; (2) the international labor rights or norms that provide a framework for assessing labor standards in the U.S. and elsewhere; (3) the impact of liberal trade regimes on worker welfare in developed and developing countries and the role of labor standards in the free trade vs. fair trade debate; (4) U.S.-based litigation challenging claimed involvement of U.S. companies in labor abuses abroad; and (5) differences in labor law regimes among developed economies.

Although occasionally an article or book excerpt seemed a more efficient vehicle, I have tried in most places to introduce the student to primary materials, whether agency or court decisions, ILO conventions, company codes of conduct, AFL-CIO complaints, and U.S. and foreign statutes and regulations. Even though the concerns of labor law now properly transcend the borders of the U.S., we remain lawyers who must be able to solve clients' problems and navigate policy dilemmas with the skills and habits of our craft.

A note on the excerpting process used. Where substantive material is being deleted, this is indicated by a centered set of three asterisks. To minimize the distraction of these symbols, no indication is given where citations are being deleted or whether a reading begins or ends in the manner indicated in the original. Where I think the reader will have difficulty obtaining access to the original, a website address is provided.

This book could not have been completed without the patient guidance of my wife, Aleta.

S.E.

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