ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

No one can write a book like this alone, especially under the extraordinary circumstances of the past few years, which, despite the change in administrations, have continued to be marked by a seemingly constant deluge of announcements and policy changes targeting asylum seekers.

First and foremost, I want to thank my amazing husband, Justin, whose constant love, encouragement, and support sustains me and makes my work possible. Without his daily partnership in raising our daughters Emery and Ella and taking care of our dog Snoop, all while managing his own incredibly demanding career, I simply could not have produced this book. He is my anchor, always grounding me when the waters get rough and bringing peace when the currents are strong. I also want to thank Emery, Ella, and Snoop for being my daily rays of sunshine; without them, the darkness of world events and the disgraceful treatment of those seeking refuge would have been all consuming. I am also incredibly grateful for the loving support of Mariam Dzidziguri, whose role in caring for Emery, Ella, and Snoop throughout this process was invaluable.

I could not have taken on this massive project without the backing of my partner, Ava Benach, and the dedicated staff of Benach Collopy LLP. Ava's steadfast support throughout this process and steady leadership in our office, as I juggled our busy practice with my writing, was a gift of true respect and trust. I could not ask for a better partner and friend. I also want to thank our staff; in particular Sarah Pitney, Erica Reilly, David Secor, and Isis Irizarry, who reviewed and edited portions of the book, assisted with preparing appendices, and ensured that all of our clients continued to receive the impeccable service that they deserve.

My heartfelt thanks go out to Danielle Polen and Sarah Redzic, my publishers and editors at AILA, who brainstormed and commiserated with me, and supervised the editing and publication of this book. Their guidance, patience, and dedication were essential to producing the best possible resource for advocates representing asylum seekers. I also want to thank the staff and leadership at AILA National, including Grace Woods, Benjamin Johnson, and the AILA Executive Committee, who deeply believe in educating and supporting our current and future AILA members, and demonstrate their commitment to these values through their publication of tools like the *Primer*.

Given the complexities of U.S. asylum law and procedure, I placed great importance on identifying other experienced practitioners in the field who could review and contribute to my work. There is no doubt in my mind that the *Primer* is a better tool and a more comprehensive guide because of the following experts, who I am also fortunate to call my friends: Blaine Bookey, Christina Brown, Shane Ellison, Lindsay Harris, Denise Gilman, Ashley Huebner, Taylor Levy, Michelle Mendez, Victoria Neilson, Priscilla Orta, Sarah Pitney, Chuck Roth, Rebecca Scholtz, Rekha Sharma-Crawford, Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, Kathryn Weber, Lindsey Wilkes, and Ben Winograd. These talented and tireless advocates donated their time to contribute their big brains, huge hearts, and many years of experience to each chapter of the *Primer*.

This book could not have been completed without the assistance of three enthusiastic and hard-working law students who will soon be incredible lawyers, including: Ryan Kone, Margaret Min, and Alexis Turner-Lafving. These students, who spent several months and hundreds of hours working with me on the *Primer*, made important contributions to this resource by cite-checking every footnote and researching many complex legal issues. It is my hope that these talented students join and continue to contribute to our field of immigration law.

I would also like to thank the late, great Michael Maggio, who despite his busy immigration practice, always found time to contribute to our field as a policy and media advocate, a pro bono champion, and a mentor. I have strived to use Michael's well-rounded approach to our work as a model for making my own contributions to our field and followed this approach in my vision for the *Primer*.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank my family for their lifetime of encouragement, constancy, and love, in particular my mom, Deb, who makes this world a better place through her daily acts of kindness; my sister, Kacy, who always makes me laugh when I need it the most; my stepdad, Dave, who

demonstrates that with hard work and determination, you can accomplish anything; and my dad, Dean, who taught me that everyone, no matter their background, deserves the chance to pursue their dreams.

Dree K. Collopy October 12, 2023