Due to important developments shortly after the publication of the second edition, the authors have posted the following updates. This update is current as of 5 July 2017.

Chapter 1

- **Section B(7) “2008 to Present.”** In June 2017, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship ordered a review of the asylum processing procedures at the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB). The review comes in the wake of growing number of asylum claims and seeks to provide options for increasing productivity at the IRB. The final report is expected in the summer of 2018. See online: www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/06/government_launchesreviewoftheimmigrationandrefugeeboardofcanada.html?_ga=2.262618824.511262864.1499177965-683641298.1499177965.

Chapter 2

- **Section E(6) “Immigration and Refugee Board Guidelines.”** On 1 May 2017, the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) announced implementation of a new Guideline: “Guideline 9: Proceedings before the IRB Involving Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression.” The Guideline applies to all four Divisions of the IRB and seeks
to promote greater sensitivity to and more nuanced understanding of cases involving sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. In particular, it emphasizes the importance of appropriate language, which reflects the person’s self-identification; provides the context for understanding the unique challenges that persons with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions may face; warns against stereotyping of such cases; and provides guidelines on assessment of credibility and determinations under the Convention refugee definition. Full text of the Guideline is online: www.irb-cISR.gc.ca/Eng/BoaCom/references/pol/GuiDir/Pages/ GuideDir09.aspx.

Chapter 3

- **Section B(1)(a) “Claimants from Designated Countries of Origin.”** Following the decision in *YZ v Canada (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration)*, 2015 FC 892, and the Liberal government’s decision not to pursue further appeal, the claimants from Designated Countries of Origin enjoy access to appeal before the Refugee Appeal Division as well as stay of removal upon application for judicial review of an IRB decision.

- **Section C(2)(b) “Access to Legal Aid.”** As of 1 July 2017, Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is suspending some of the services offered to refugee claimants, due to financial constraints. LAO conducted a series of public consultations on the future of refugee programming, including options such as restricting coverage by the type of proceeding and suspending all immigration and refugee services when funding runs out in August/September 2017.


- **Section C(5) “Access to Naturalization.”** On 19 June 2017, Bill C-6, *An Act to amend the Citizenship Act and to make consequential amendments to another Act*, received royal assent. The Bill has reversed some of the most restrictive changes made by the Conservative government in 2014, namely:

  ✓ removed the requirement that applicants for naturalization make a declaration of intention to reside in Canada;

  ✓ reduced the physical presence requirement for naturalization (and a corresponding requirement to file tax returns) from four to three years;
repealed the requirement that applicants had to be physically present in Canada for 183 days in four out of the six years preceding their application for naturalization;

allowed counting some of the time applicants spend in Canada as temporary residents or protected persons toward their physical presence requirement;

limited the requirement of demonstrating knowledge of Canada and of one of the official languages to applicants between eighteen and fifty-four (compared to fourteen and sixty-four previously);

removed grounds for citizenship revocation related to national security; and

changed the process for revocation of citizenship on the grounds of false representation, fraud, or knowingly concealing material circumstances (under previous legislation, most such revocations would be made by the Minister, but under Bill C-6, the decision-making authority is transferred to the Federal Court).

The changes regarding declaration of intention to reside in Canada and citizenship revocation related to national security took effect upon royal assent. Other changes are expected to take effect in the fall of 2017 and in 2018. For the timelines for the entry into force of various provisions of the Bill, see online: www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2017/06/bill_c-6_receivesroyalassent0.html.