ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was made possible by the encouragement of my faculty colleagues at Albany Law School and the generous financial support of Dean Tom Guernsey, who funded both my own research and a conference for contributing authors in the fall of 2003. Associate Dean Bob Begg and his library staff, in particular Bob Emery and Mary Wood, fielded a steady flow of research requests. Lucas Mihuta, Seth Zoracki, and Alexandra Harrington provided essential research assistance. Alexandra Harrington, Theresa Colbert, and Tammy Weinman helped organize the conference. Beyond this, Alexandra Harrington coordinated the editing process among all of the authors and kept the project on schedule. I am grateful for all of her many efforts.

I am especially indebted to Peter Schuck for encouraging me to undertake editing a book on gun litigation in the first place and coaching me throughout the process. When I was a law student in the late 1980s, Peter introduced me to the field of mass torts, and he both inspired me to pursue a career in the legal academy and helped me secure a position. I am very proud to be among Peter’s many students, and the more I develop my own ideas about law, the more I realize just how deeply indebted to him I am.

Austin Sarat tutored me in how to write a book proposal and how to edit a volume of independent essays. Steve Wasby read the entire manuscript and offered sage advice about organization of the chapters. Jim Reische at the University of Michigan Press has shepherded the book
from proposal to publication, while Kevin Rennells provided valuable assistance coordinating the editing stages.

The greatest reward of working on this project has been the opportunity to work closely with the contributing authors. It has been an honor to work among such thoughtful and talented scholars, and I am grateful for their individual and collective mentoring.

My parents, Bernard and Norma Lytton, and my sister, Jennifer, have supported me enthusiastically in this project, as they have in so many others throughout my life. My wife, Rachel Anisfeld, continues to be my toughest scholarly critic and my most ardent supporter. This volume is dedicated to our children, Medad and Margalit, in the hope that by means of honest debate about the regulation of firearms the world they inherit will suffer less from government restrictions on liberty and the carnage of gun violence.