

Acknowledgments

Readers who have not authored a book may find tedious and, perhaps, disingenuous or maudlin the refrain that this endeavor would never have reached fruition were it not for the support and involvement of others. Readers who are, themselves, authors will readily appreciate why I rehearse this verity.

To thrive, marriage, parenthood, and teaching all demand time, a precious resource that a book project saps with unslakable thirst. There is no denying the wicked dimension of creativity: the selfish expenditure of time justified as a burden imposed by the enterprise. So, foremost among all to whom I am beholden for making it possible for me to write is my wife. She—with inexhaustible support from my parents and occasional assistance from “Big Rachael” Corrigan—selflessly and wordlessly shifted from my shoulders to her own the responsibility for the care of our two young children. Our youngest was born just as I embarked on this project and turned three shortly before I sent the final draft to Stanford University Press. With the travails of the book now past, I relish reassuming my full share of the obligations and fulfillment associated with fatherhood and matrimony.

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