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This book builds upon my previous work, *Grassroots Tyranny and the Limits of Federalism*, which was published a decade ago by the Cato Institute. I am grateful to Cato for allowing me to develop the themes and concepts upon which I build here.

While I was writing this book, I served as vice president

and national director of state chapters for the Institute for Justice, the nation's premier pro-freedom public-interest law firm, which I cofounded in 1991 with Chip Mellor. Many of the stories set forth in this book derive from cases litigated by IJ. As this book was headed to publication, I joined a new organization, the Alliance for School Choice, as its president and general counsel, to address education reform issues discussed in chapter 9. I remain affiliated with IJ as its strategic litigation counsel. I hope this book will serve as a fitting tribute to my more than twelve years at IJ and to my colleagues there, who serve as a constant source of inspiration and optimism.

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