AUTHOR’S NOTE REGARDING COMPLEX TREE IMAGES, VIDEO LINKS, AND WEBSITE

Readers may note that, in more than a few places, this book contains complex trees in which the font size of branch labels and numbers is quite small and thus difficult to read without a magnifying glass or other enlargement technology. For these trees, I thought it more important to show how a case can map to “many feathered” complexity, and still fit on a single page. Because the trees in this book will not be shown to real clients with real cases, the exact words and numbers on the branch labels don’t really matter. Of course, if you were creating a similarly complex tree for a real client, it would be very important that the words and the numbers be large enough for both of you to read and discuss them. Thus, you might enlarge the complex tree on a screen projection from your computer, or zoom in on its branch clusters as you discuss the tree on the computer screen. Sometimes, lower tech works just as well. You might elect to print the tree over several pages and tape them side by side on a wall, or have the complex tree printed on large paper or poster-board.

Please note also that Chapter Three contains links to URLs for 28 video recordings. A complete list of these can also be found at the end of the book, immediately before the bibliography. In each instance, the video shows the process of hand-drawing a tree, segment of a tree, or calculating results for a problem described in the immediately preceding text. The narration and the quaintly primitive handwriting are by your author.

Finally, I am pleased to inform readers that, by the time of this book’s publication date, a website at RiskandRigor.com will offer supporting materials on decision tree analysis and how it can be taught and used in practice. Developed with Professors Michaela Keet and Heather Heavin of the University of Saskatchewan’s College of Law, this website will also offer a broader array of resources to facilitate client communication and decision making in the face of risk, costs, and other consequences.