

Contents

Foreword, <i>Chief Justice Earl Warren</i>	vii
Acknowledgments	ix
1. Perfecting the Administration of Justice	3
Assumptions and aims of the adversary system	4
Pathologies of the adversary system	6
Reforms of the adversary system	8
Aims of discovery	9
A new approach to learning legal truth	12
2. Development of Modern Civil Litigation	15
The modern reform movement	18
The new civil procedure	22
3. Modern Pretrial Discovery Rules	26
Sources of modern discovery	27
Discovery in the federal rules	29
Evaluations of discovery	34
4. Aims and Design of the Survey of Discovery	38
How the survey originated	39
Design of the study	44
National mail questionnaire	44
Interview	47
Ancillary work	48
General significance of the discovery data	49
5. Discovery in Practice	51
Determinants of discovery	55
Purposes of discovery	58
Purposes associated with discovery devices	63
Variations in use by type of case	67
Intensity of discovery work: time	70
Intensity of discovery work: devices	76
Conclusion	79
6. Gains from Discovery	83
Information obtained by the litigants	83
Discovery use patterns	87
Benefits to the litigant	89
Effects on agreement and settlement	91
Length of case and length of trial	101
Quality of trial	103
Confidence in the judicial process	112
The accomplishments of discovery	114

7. Conflicts Over Discovery	117
Complaints about the adversary's discovery	117
A few special cases of conflict	123
Work product	123
Experts	126
General attitudes toward scope	127
Proposed changes in the rules	127
"Pushing" by type of case	129
Determinants of "pushing"	133
Complaints about the adversary's resistance	134
"Tripping" by type of cases	137
Determinants of "tripping"	140
Going to court	140
Complaints about interrogatories	149
Deterrence of trouble through sanctions	154
Deterrence of trouble through standardized procedures	156
Conclusion	160
8. Costs	162
Total costs of discovery	162
Statistical oddities due to contingent fees	167
General patterns of cost	167
Some determinants of cost	170
Type of case	170
Expected recovery	172
Total costs by both sides	172
Discovery costs in the expensive cases	172
Role of discovery in litigation costs	177
Costs and gains	181
Tactical use of discovery costs	182
Harassment	182
The oppression of small plaintiffs by large defendants	183
Conclusion	185
9. The Heavy-Discovery Case	189
Characteristics of the heavy-discovery case	191
Proportions of litigation time in discovery	193
Trouble	197
Gains	200
Costs	200
Conclusion	201
10. Contributions of Social Research to Rule-Making	203
Confirming and specifying suspected trouble spots	207
Identifying specific defects	209
Sanctions	210
Requests for admissions	211
Deflating exaggerated issues	212
Eliminating unnecessary procedures	219
Identifying unrealistic rules	222
Opinions of the Bar	224
General considerations in designing social research for rule-making	226
Conclusion	230

Contents

xiii

11. Discovery and Its Place in the Adversary System	233
Trouble and the limits of rules	235
Management of troublesome cases	237
Discovery in the average case	241
Improving the administration of justice	243
Appendices	247
A. Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: The Discovery Rules	249
B. Sampling	263
C. Questionnaires	271
Indices	289
Index of Names	291
Index of Cases	294
Index of Subjects	295