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## Preface to the Third Edition

For a reader new to this book, we suggest that you read the prefaces to the first and second editions for an overview; what we wrote there is still relevant as an introduction to our subject and the method of the book. For the teacher who has used prior editions, this edition includes over twenty new sections, including the following: §1.5.4 (SIDS tragedies), §5.5.2 (State trooper literacy exam), §8.1.3 (Rheumatoid arthritis drug), §11.1.4 (Exonerations in death-sentence cases), §13.2.4 (Projecting airline costs), §14.9.1 (New York City police stops), plus new expository material on various statistical techniques. In addition, each data table that appears in the book is available for download as a plaintext file at <http://www.columbia.edu/~BL6/SFLdata.htm>.

As in prior editions, much of the material for the new portions of this edition was collected and explored with help from lawyers and statisticians involved in the cases or studies. We thank them all for their generosity in assisting us. In this connection, we would like to thank in particular Nathan A. Schachtman for directing our attention to a number of new cases that we found useful to include in this edition. We also thank Ms. Dan Bai for helping us to update the references.

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