Numerous colleagues have generously offered ideas and suggestions that enriched this book. We have also learned a great deal from a promising cohort of recent graduate students whose empirical data has greatly illuminated the issues at hand. We will not attempt to list them all here, for fear of either writing an encyclopedic acknowledgments section or, more likely, inadvertently forgetting someone. But you know who you are.

Various entrepreneurial colleagues organized seminars, conferences, and collective publications that have allowed us to explore our arguments and receive critical feedback over the past few years. An invitation from Robert Rotberg to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences sparked the development of the accountability heuristic in Chapter 3. Fernando Filgueiras spearheaded the two-day conference “Rethinking Anticorruption Efforts in Brazil” that brought together a select group of public servants, anticorruption practitioners, and academics at the Escola Nacional de Administração Pública in Brasília. Sandra Botero, Daniel Brinks, and Ezequiel González-Ocantos held a collegial seminar “Politics and Law in Latin America” at the Universidad del Rosario, which got us thinking about the politics of judicial policy entrepreneurship. Maria Popova, Manuel Balán, and Juan Wang welcomed the presentation of our reflections on *Lava Jato* at the McGill University workshop “Politics of Corruption Prosecutions,” which was also the source of a number of comparative insights developed in the pages ahead. Leonardo Avritzer, Fábio Kerche, and
Marjorie Marona welcomed our reflections on the state of accountability during the government of Jair Bolsonaro in their collected volume on the subject. Rogério Arantes and Diego Werneck Arguelhes pushed us to think about the Supreme Federal Tribunal’s role in criminal prosecutions in their collected volume. Mariana Prado, Marta Machado, Kevin Davis, and Raquel Pimenta organized a fascinating mix of law faculty and political scientists at the Fundação Getulio Vargas seminar “Law and Systemic Corruption” that helped us reflect on a key issue we identify in this book: political dominance and how it influences the effective deployment of checks and balances. Bruno Speck and Peter Birle organized an event at the Ibero-American Institute in Berlin that allowed us to develop our thoughts on the demise of the anticorruption agenda within the judiciary during Bolsonaro’s presidency. We are grateful to the organizers of all of these projects, as well as the many event participants who introduced new material, raised good questions, and provided unvarnished criticism.

Kate Bersch, Maria Paula Bertran, Manoel Gehrke, Paul Lagunes, Lucio Picci, Radu Pârvulescu, and two anonymous reviewers offered extensive feedback and constructive ideas for improvement of earlier drafts of the book. We are grateful for their help in sharpening our arguments. Luciano thanks his colleagues and students at the Federal University of Santa Catarina and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, where he worked during the development of this project. Luciano also thanks the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico for financial support. Matthew thanks his colleagues at the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies and the School of International Service at American University for their encouragement.

Finally, we thank Lynne Rienner, Moorea Corrigan, Diane Foose, Sally Glover, and Shena Redmond for seeing the project through to the finish line.