

PROSSER, WADE AND SCHWARTZ'S

TORTS  
CASES AND MATERIALS

TWELFTH EDITION

VICTOR E. SCHWARTZ

KATHRYN KELLY

DAVID F. PARTLETT

FOUNDATION PRESS

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## CASES AND MATERIALS

PROSSER, WADE AND SCHWARTZ'S

# TORTS

T W E L F T H E D I T I O N

*by*

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FOUNDATION PRESS  
2010



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1 New York Plaza, 34th Floor  
New York, NY 10004  
Phone Toll Free 1-877-888-1330  
Fax (646) 424-5201  
[foundation-press.com](http://foundation-press.com)

Printed in the United States of America

**ISBN** 978-1-59941-704-2

Mat #40856301

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*For life long friends: Michael Aaron, A. Bruce Cleveland,  
David L. Flory, Peter S. Lushing, and Paul B. Harris*  
VES

*Per le belle ragazze di musica*  
KK

*For Nan, Anne, and Will*  
DFP

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## P R E F A C E

This is the 12th edition of a work first published in 1951, authored then by one of the most insightful minds in the law of torts during the 20th century, William Lloyd Prosser. He established a tradition of excellence in scholarship combined with ease of use. That tradition was continued and enhanced for almost three decades by our late colleague, Dean John W. Wade. Each of them contributed not just to the learning of countless students through their work on this casebook, but also to the development of the law through their scholarly writings and service as reporters to the American Law Institute Restatement of Torts (Second).

The casebook has benefitted from a half century of learning from many other sources and we, the current authors, Victor Schwartz, Kathryn Kelly and David Partlett, feel a special sense of responsibility to be faithful to that tradition while keeping it current. As we worked on this edition, we did more than read cases (thousands of cases), statutes, and law review articles. We consulted with law professors who have adopted our book in the past, as well as with those who had not, about how it could be improved. Through e-mails, letters, and telephone calls, they sent us their thoughts. Some of their ideas were broad and conceptual, others were technical, and a few were chastising; the book benefitted from all of them. We sought comments from students who have studied from our book, including former students, now practicing lawyers, who took time from their busy law practices to send us cases, comment on the trends they observe from the frontlines of tort law, and share their reflections on the best ways to prepare for the practice of tort law.

With that goal and all of those suggestions in mind, we eliminated cases that were deemed unproductive; we pruned cases that were thought too lengthy; we added cases, not for the purpose of “change,” but to make the subject more interesting and to assure that current and vital issues are discussed. The law has seen many changes in the last decade. We would like to highlight three of them. First, a new Restatement of Torts (Third) is being published by the American Law Institute in segments. Victor Schwartz has served as an Adviser to all three sections. The first major step was the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability. The Products Liability chapter includes a focus on the new Restatement. It presents controversies that surrounded both its making and its content. The next step was the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Apportionment of Liability that was published in 2000. It is featured primarily in the chapter on Joint Tortfeasors. The third is the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Liability for Physical and Emotional Harm, the first volume of which was published in 2010; the second is expected in 2011. It is featured throughout. Second, while fully respecting the traditional common law development of torts, we have drawn attention to the role of modern legislatures in creating, and

limiting the domain of, tort law and the response of the state judiciary to that phenomenon. The outcome of this struggle between the courts and the legislatures over the shaping of America's tort law is yet to be written. As much as tort law has moved dramatically to the center stage of social policy and political gamesmanship, it continues to be subject of jurisprudential probing at a time of rapid technological change. Although we cannot cabin this rich debate, we have, throughout the book, provided references to it. Third, this edition appears at a time of rapid globalization of the law. In defamation, for example, old doctrines based upon publications confined to regions are strained to the breaking point when publications pulsate instantaneously to all corners of the globe via the Internet. Finally, in the book's last chapter, we invite exploration of compensation schemes beyond tort liability. The legal challenges presented by the catastrophic and tragic consequences of the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001, still resound a decade later. More recently, the landmark Health Care legislation of 2010 has rekindled the debate about reform of medical malpractice litigation.

Throughout the text, we have held fast to a cardinal principle that has been a hallmark of this text for six decades: the casebook is not used to present any particular philosophy of tort law. We leave that to the law reviews, the Congressional testimony, and the amicus briefs. This casebook aspires to provide teachers with the raw material to inform and challenge students to learn the law and to think critically about it.

While the size and breadth of this casebook may give pause to some, we believe that all students should be given an opportunity if they wish to peruse topics excluded due to exigencies of class coverage. The casebook easily can be adapted for use in a first-year course of different credit hours and in optional advanced courses.

As in previous editions of this casebook, the deletion of a part of the text from a published opinion is indicated by the use of lacunae (\* \* \*). When only citations are omitted, the letter "c" is used for "citation." To indicate that several citations have been deleted, "cc" is used. The letter is capitalized or not, depending on whether the citation was placed in the middle of a sentence or started a new sentence.

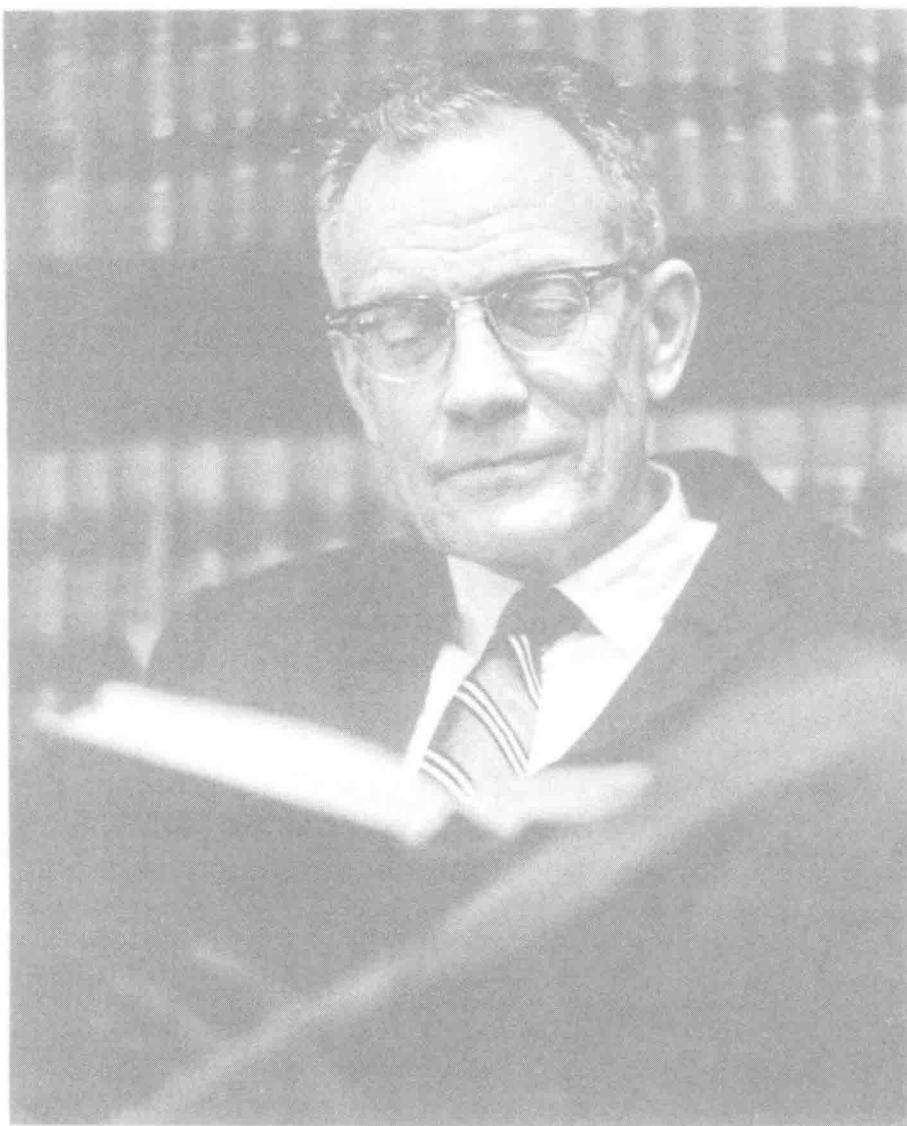
Those of you learning torts from this casebook will make the law in the 21st century. That is an important undertaking. We hope that you will find the first step of that undertaking, learning torts from this 12th Edition, challenging and enjoyable.

VICTOR SCHWARTZ  
KATHRYN KELLY  
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**JOHN W. WADE**  
Late Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law,  
Vanderbilt University School of Law

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1. *Pictures.* Grateful acknowledgment is made to the following for their kind assistance in locating or their courtesy in supplying or granting permission to publish pictures:

Picture of Dean John W. Wade. Mary Moody Wade.

Picture of Dean William L. Prosser. Hastings College of Law.

*Palsgraf* pictures. William J. Pallas, Assistant General Counsel, Long-Island Railroad.

*Wagon Mound* pictures. John Fairfax & Sons, Ltd., Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

*St. Francis Hotel* picture. The hotel.

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Picture of Justice Brennan. The National Portrait Gallery, Washington, D.C.

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Pictures of New York Court of Appeals and of some individual Justices. Professor Robert J. Tyman, Albany Law School.

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Pictures of the parties and house in *Katko v. Briney*. Bruce A. Palmer, Esq., Oskaloosa, Iowa.

Pictures of the bridge in *Dillon v. Twin State Gas and Electric Co.* Peter H. Bornstein, Esq., Berlin, New Hampshire.

Pictures of Judge Andrews in *Palsgraf* case. Retired Judge Francis Bergan.

Picture of the New Jersey Supreme Court. Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk of the Court.

Especial appreciation is due to Ms. Bernice Loss, in charge of the Art Collection at Harvard Law School, for her courtesy in making available the following pictures: Lords Abinger, Blackburn, Cairns, Ellenborough and Herschell, Lord Justice Bowen, Chief Baron Pollock, Chief Justices Holt, Shaw and Tindall, Justices Cardozo and Holmes, Judge Learned Hand, and Dean Bohlen.

2. *Reprints.* Appreciative acknowledgment is also made to the following for permission to include the indicated selections:

American Law Institute. Certain sections from the Restatement (Second) of Torts, from the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Products Liability, and from the Restatement (Third) of Torts: Liability for Physical and Emotional Harm.

National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws. Certain Uniform and Model Acts.

Matthew Bender & Co. Three paragraphs from A. Larson, *The Law of Workmen's Compensation*.

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