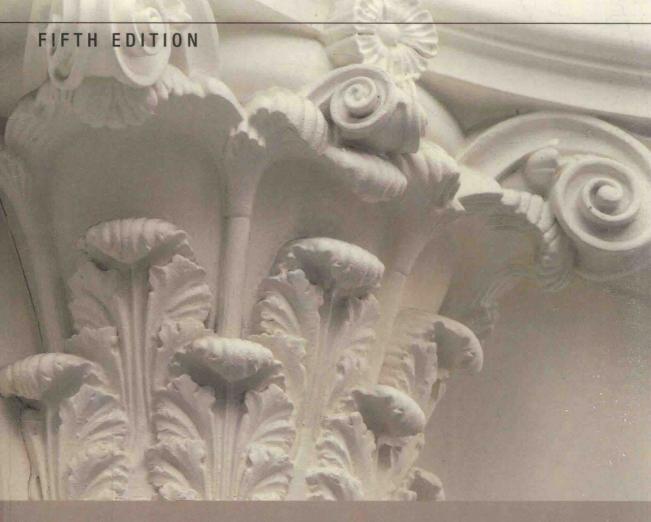
Neal R. Bevans

TORT LAW FOR PARALEGALS





Aspen College Series

Tort Law for Paralegals

Fifth Edition

Neal R. Bevans, J.D.

Western Piedmont Community College



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INTRODUCTION TO THE FIFTH EDITION

The fifth edition of *Tort Law for Paralegals* has undergone a major rewrite and revision. The author has worked hard to incorporate the most recent changes in tort law and to discuss the growing impact of technology in the day-to-day practice of law, examining the challenges (and benefits) that it provides practitioners. The text begins with a general discussion of civil law and then proceeds through the concepts of intentional torts and defenses, followed by an in-depth examination of negligence law. This examination spans several chapters and includes all elements of a negligence action, as well as defenses to negligence. From there, the author moves on to a discussion of product liability, business torts, and an explanation of the impact of insurance coverage on bringing and defending tort cases.

FEATURES

This fifth edition continues many of the features that have made previous editions so popular. The material attempts to balance theory with practice. It is designed to appeal to various learning styles. Many of the components give the text a solid, visual appeal while also delivering important information about the bases of tort law.

Chapter Objectives

Each chapter begins with clearly stated learning objectives to guide readers in their studies.

Tort Basics at a Glance

Scattered throughout each chapter are small synopses of the basics of tort law. Students can see a brief summary of the topic and the critical points to be gleaned from the material.

Definitions

As each new term is introduced, it is also defined for the student. These contemporaneous definitions help to reinforce the concept under discussion and provide an additional frame of reference for the legal term.

Figures, Tables, and Diagrams

Each chapter has been extensively updated with new figures, tables, and diagrams to assist students in understanding concepts by presenting them in a visual format.

Practical Advice

The text also provides examples and advice about topics as varied as drafting a complaint to billing for time.

Case Excerpts

Almost every chapter in the text has been updated with new cases that reflect the most up-to-date changes in tort law.

Litigation Facts

The text also contains checklists, figures, and tables that allow students to bring the theoretical discussions into a more practical realm by showing how attorneys and paralegals prepare for a wide variety of tort cases.

Skills You Need in the Real World

This feature helps create a balance between theoretical legal discussions and down-to-earth practicality by showing the reader how various activities in the real world are carried out. Whether investigating a claim, billing an account, or preparing legal documents, this section—which comes at the end of each chapter—helps emphasize the day-to-day activities carried out by paralegals who work in tort law.

Life of a Paralegal

Each chapter also contains a profile of a real-life working paralegal. The reader can hear in the paralegal's own words what it is like to work at a private firm or to investigate a claim or to meet with clients, among many other topics discussed by these paralegals. This section also contains practical advice for readers seriously considering a career as a paralegal.

Ethics Issues for the Paralegal

Ethics is a critical concern for attorneys and paralegals, and ethical scenarios and rules are presented throughout the text to help emphasize this point. At the end of each chapter, the author discusses a particular ethical issue in great detail. Examples include how the attorney-client relationship is established to avoid legal malpractice claims.

Tech Topic

The text also contains a new feature: Tech Topic, which updates the discussions to examine technological innovations and how they impact the practice of law.

Chapter Summary

At the conclusion of each chapter, a summary presents a condensed overview of the material covered in the chapter, helping the reader focus on the key points raised.

Websites

The fifth edition of this book has even more broadly expanded its consideration of the Internet and its impact on the day-to-day practice of law. Each chapter contains websites that direct the reader to online resources for more extensive and targeted reading on a particular topic. The chapters have been revised to discuss the impact of the Internet on all areas of tort law.

Forms and Court Documents

Among the many items in the end-of-chapter materials are excerpts from actual court documents. These contain examples of pleadings that range from complaints and answers to interrogatories and motions. This section allows the reader to see how the various legal topics discussed in the chapter are actually put into place by attorneys and paralegals as they pursue (or defend) a civil tort case.

Key Terms

Each of the key terms discussed in the body of the chapter are excerpted and provided to the reader again at the conclusion of the chapter. This allows students to ensure that they have mastered the important concepts discussed throughout the text.

Review Questions

Extensive review questions test the student's understanding of concepts raised in the chapters and also serve as a way to stimulate in class discussion of various tort law concepts.

Applying What You Have Learned

In the author's continuing effort to balance theory and practice, this section allows students to apply the chapter's theoretical concepts to specific, real-world problems and to arrive at solutions for these problems.

Non-Gender-Specific Language

In recognition of the impact of gender-specific language, the author has adopted the following convention in the text: even-numbered chapters use "he" in general discussions and examples, while oddnumbered chapters use "she" for the same purpose.

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