Business Law and the Regulatory Environment

Concepts and Cases

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This is the tenth UCC edition (and the seventeenth overall edition) of a business law text that first appeared in 1935. Throughout its more than 60 years of existence, this book has been a leader and an innovator in the fields of business law and the legal environment of business. One reason for the book's success, we feel, is its clear and comprehensive treatment of the standard topics that form the traditional business law curriculum. Another is its responsiveness to changes in these traditional subjects and to new views about that curriculum. Prominent among the latter are the injection of regulatory materials that has largely defined "legal environment" approach to business law and the more recent emphasis on ethics and international issues.

Continuing Strengths

This edition continues the basic features that have made its predecessors successful. They include:

- Comprehensive Coverage. We believe that the text continues to excel both in the number of topics it addresses and the depth of coverage within each topic. This is true both of the basic business law subjects that form the core of the book and also of the regulatory and other subjects that are said to constitute the "legal environment" curriculum.
- Style and Presentation. We like to think that this text is written in a style that is direct, lucid, and organized, yet also relatively relaxed and conversational. For this reason, we often have been able to cover certain topics by assigning them as reading without lecturing on them. As always, we continue to employ italics and boldface to emphasize key points and terms; to make liberal use of examples; to state the elements of a claim or a list of defenses in numbered paragraphs; and to include many charts, figures, and concept summaries.
- Case Selection. We try very hard to find cases that clearly illustrate important points made in

- the text, that should interest students, and that are fun to teach. Except where older decisions are landmarks or best illustrate particular concepts, we also try to select recent cases. Our collective in-class teaching experience with recent editions has helped us determine which of those cases best meet these criteria.
- · AACSB Curricular Standards. The AACSB's recent curriculum standards say that both undergraduate and MBA curricula should include ethical and global issues; should address the influence of political, social, legal and regulatory, environmental, and technological issues on business; and should also address the impact of demographic diversity on organizations. In addition to its obvious stress on legal and regulatory issues, the book contains chapters on business ethics, the legal environment for international business, and environmental law, as well as "Ethical and Public Policy Concerns" at the end of all chapters except the ethics chapter. By putting legal changes in their social, political, and economic context, several text chapters enhance students' understanding of how political and social changes influence business and the law. Finally, Chapter 50's discussion of employment discrimination law certainly speaks to the subject of workplace diversity.

Important Changes in this Edition

This edition's lineup of chapters is unchanged from the ninth edition. The most important changes within that lineup follow. Of course, they are in addition to the routine updating, inclusion of new cases, and replacement of problem cases that accompany any new edition.

 Chapter 6 has undergone a fairly significant rewrite. More importantly, the chapter's discussion of property-related intentional torts has been expanded and cases for these torts included.

- Chapter 7's discussion of negligence and strict liability also has received a fairly significant rewrite.
- Chapter 8 incorporates some recent changes in the law regarding the duration of patents, as well as the 1996 Federal Trademark Dilution Act. It also expands the previous edition's discussions of patent infringement, copyright duration, copyright infringement, and the duration of trademarks.
- Chapter 29 includes the 1994 amendments to the Bankruptcy Code.
- Chapters 40–43 contain some new material on nonprofit corporations.
- Chapter 42 contains discussions of two new takeover defenses: golden parachutes and maintaining a corps of friendly shareholders.
- Chapter 44 includes some new material regarding securities offerings on the Internet.
- Chapter 45 now contains the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which limits the liability of most auditors to the amount of the investor's loss for which the auditor actually is responsible. An even more important inclusion is Securities Exchange Act section 10A, which imposes a public watchdog function on independent auditors, requiring them to report their clients' violations of law to the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Chapter 47 contains some new material on the FTC's Telemarketing Sales Rule.
- Chapter 49 expands the discussion of federal enforcement authorities' recent attitudes toward mergers.

The Package

• Instructor's Manual. We have prepared the lengthy instructor's manual for this text. Each chapter in the manual contains outlined suggestions for structuring the presentation of the corresponding text chapter material, provides additional material and examples not mentioned in the text, discusses each text case while providing points for discussion with students, and answers the problem cases. Each text manual chapter also contains suggested answers to the chapter's ethical and public policy concerns.

- Finally, the manual includes an answer key for questions presented in the student workbook.
- Student Workbook. The student workbook, prepared by Arlen Langvardt and Michael Phillips, contains true-false, multiple-choice, and short essay questions for each chapter.
- *Test Bank*. The text bank, prepared by Thomas Bowers, Arlen Langvardt, and Michael Phillips, contains true-false, multiple-choice, and shortessay questions. For each question, the manual includes an answer, a page reference to that answer, and a rating of the question's difficulty. In addition, a computerized version of the test bank is available. It enables instructors to generate random tests and to add their own questions.
- Case Videos. As was true for its predecessor, adopters of the tenth edition can obtain Irwin's 20 case videos for classroom use. These contemporary dramatizations of business law issues sometimes focus on issues within a particular chapter, or may span different chapters. Portions of the case videos are integrated as problem cases in many chapters. They are designated by a video cassette icon and the term Video Case. In addition, Supplementary Video Case Notes, prepared by Richard Finkley of Governors State University, outline the facts, question, issues, and decision for each video segment, and direct instructors to the appropriate chapter. This material is included in the Instructor's Manual.

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O 1 C A S

ABKCO Music, Inc. v. Harrisongs Music, Ltd., 714 African Bio-Botanica, Inc. v. Leiner, 730 Alsafi Oriental Rugs v. American Loan Co., 358-359 Alzado v. Blinder, Robinson & Co., 810-811 American Federal Bank, FSB v. Parker, 677-678 Anixter v. Home-Stake Production Co., 977-979 Arizona v. Evans. 88-89 Autoworkers v. Johnson Controls, Inc., 1114 Babbitt v. Sweet Home Chapter of Communities for a Great Oregon, 1009-1011 Baker v. International Record Syndicate, Inc., 413-414 Baldwin v. GTE South, Inc., 130-131 Barbieri v. Swing-N-Slide Corp., 814 Basic, Inc. v. Levinson. 945-948 Benetton Services v. Benedot, Inc., 1170 Bersani v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1137-1138 Beverly Way Associates v. Barham, 327-329 Bily v. Arthur Young & Co., 970-972 Bingham v. Goldberg, Marchesano, Kohlman, Inc., 829-830 BMW of North America v. Gore, 45-46 Bodine Aluminum Co., Inc. v. Mitauer, 913 Borg-Warner Acceptance Corp. v. Tascosa National Bank, 569-570 Briargate Condominium Assoc. v. Carpenter, 803-805 Broemmer v. Abortion Services of Phoenix, Ltd., 282-283 Brooke Group Ltd. v. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., 1088-1090 Brown v. Stauffer Chemical Co., 109-110

Buckley v. Trenton Savings Fund

Builders Steel Co., Inc. v. Hycore, Inc., 806-807

Society, 682-683

Burke v. Briggs, 121

Busch v. Carpenter, 927-928 B-West Imports, Inc. v. United States, 1157 - 1158C & N Contractors v. Community Bancshares, Inc., 671-673 Calvin Klein Ltd. v. Trylon Trucking Corp., 698-700 Camp v. First Financial Federal Savings and Loan Association, 538-539 Capital Federal Savings & Loan Ass'n v. Hoger, 574-575 Carr v. CIGNA Securities, Inc., 943-944 Cede & Co. v. Cinerama, Inc., 896-898 Centex Corporation v. Dalton, 338-339 Central District Alarm, Inc. v. Hal-Tuc, Inc., 404-405 Chernow v. Reyes, 713 Cherry v. Crow, 320 City of Dallas v. Stanglin, 47 City of Edmonds v. Oxford House, Inc., 484-485 Coggins v. New England Patriots Football Club, Inc., 881-882 Commodity Futures Trading Commission v. Collins, 1000-1001 Conklin Farm v. Leibowitz, 793-794 Connors v. Middle Fork Corp., 760 Conoco, Inc., v. Bran iff, Inc., 421-422 Crawford v. Buckner. 503-504 Crowell v. Delafield Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, 1194–1195 Crozier and Gudsnuk, P.C. v. Valentine, 291-292 Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health, 520-521 Culli v. Marathon Petroleum Co., 129–130 Dalton v. Educational Testing Service, 331–333 Daniell v. Ford Motor Company, 377-378 DBC Capital Fund, Inc. v. Snodgrass, 571-572

Delchi Carrier SpA v. Rotorex Corp., 1165-1167

xxx List of Cases Dempsey v. Rosenthal, 376 Denny's Marina, Inc. v. Renfro Productions, Inc., 1046-1047 Dey v. Colt Construction & Development Co., 1111-1112 Disenos Artisticos e Industriales, S.A. v. Costco Wholesale Corp., 1163-1165 Diversified Graphics, Ltd. v. Groves, 965-966 Dodge v. Ford Motor Co., 901-902 Dodson v. Shrader, 259-260 Dolan v. City of Tigard, 487-489 Duncan v. Union Pacific Railroad Co., 128 Eastman Kodak Co. v. Image Technical Services, Inc., 1055-1058 Erichsen v. No-Frills Supermarkets of Omaha, Inc., 505-506 Escott v. BarChris Construction Corp., 934–938 Exxon Corporation v. Eagerton, 49-50 Farm Family Mutual Insurance Co. v. Moore Business Forms, Inc., 388 Farnum v. Silvano, 263-265 Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. v. Mallen, 995-996 Federal Trade Commission v. Ticor Title Insurance Co., 1094-1096 Fierro v. Hoel, 440-441 First American Bank of Virginia v. Litchfield Company of South Carolina, 659-660 Fitchie v. Yurko, 753-754 Ford v. Starr Fireworks, Inc., 398-400 Ford Motor Credit Company v. All Ways, Inc., 620 Ford Motor Credit Company v. Morgan, 653-654 Ford v. Venard, 460 Fort Gratiot Sanitary Landfill, Inc. v. Michigan Department of Natural Resources, 1142-1144 44 Liquormart, Inc. v. Rhode Island, 43-44 Foster v. Foster, 517-518 Galatia Community State Bank v. Kindy, 626–628 Garnac Grain Co. v. Boatmen's Bank & Trust Co. of Kansas City, 668-669

Goldman v. Bequai, 250-251

1200

Good v. Continental Insurance Company, 1199-

Goode v. Goode, 865-866 Gosch v. B & D Shrimp, Inc., 825-826 Granite State Insurance Co. v. Aamco Transmissions, Inc., 1202-1203 Grant v. TRW, Inc., 1031-1032 Grimes v. Donald, 863-864 Guth v. Loft, Inc., 879-880 Haddon v. United States, 734-735 Haft v. Dart Group Corp., 848-849 Harris v. Forklift Systems, Inc., 1116-1117 Hartzell v. Justus Co., Inc., 414-415 Hausam v. Schnabl, 725-726 Hazen Paper Co. v. Biggins, 1118-1119 Heintz v. Jenkins, 1034-1036 HJ Inc. v. Northwestern Bell Telephone Co., 100-102 Hodge v. Evans Financial Corporation, 294 Homes v. Homes, 758-759 Huppman v. Tighe, 727-728 Idaho v. Shama Resources Limited Partnership, 957–959 In Re Auclair; McGregor v. Jackson, 365-366 In Re Grand Jury Subpoenas Dated October 22, 1991, and November 1, 1991 (United States v. Doe), 91-93 In Re Griffin. 589-590 In Re Huckfeldt, 597-598 In Re Ionosphere Clubs, Inc., 586 In Re Maxwell Newspapers, Inc.; New York Typographical Union No. 6 v. Maxwell Newspapers, Inc., 601-602 In Re Nusor; Parkhill v. Nusor, 642-644 In Re Phillips; Creditway of America v. Phillips, 565-566 In Re Skyline Properties, Inc.; Century National Bank and Trust Company v. Skyline Properties, Inc., 551-552 In Re The Monetary Group, 808-809 In Re Tucker, 604-605 In Re Woodfield, 595-596 In the Matter of International Harvester Company, 1025-1026 Ivy v. General Motors Acceptance Corp., 577-579 J. v. Victory Tabernacle Baptist Church, 735-736 Jackson v. Investment Corporation of Palm Beach, 195 J. H. Harvey Co. v. Speight, 111 Jimenez v. Sears Roebuck & Co., 389-390 John R. Ray & Sons, Inc. v. Stroman, 275-276 Johnson v. Scandia Associates, Inc., 500-501 Johnston v. Morrison, Inc., 1121–1122 Kalamazoo Spice Extraction Co. v. Provisional Military Government of Socialist Ethiopia, 1177-1178 Kedzie & 103rd Currency Exchange, Inc. v. Hodge, 647-649 Kelly v. Central Bank & Trust Co. of Denver. 674-675 KGM Harvesting Co. v. Fresh Network, 424-425 Khan v. State Oil Co., 1048-1050 King v. E. I. DuPont De Nemours & Co., 1147-1148 King v. Trustees of Boston University, 445-448 Klein v. Pyrodine Corporation, 138-139 Knowles v. Modglin, 22-23 Kraft, Inc. v. Federal Trade Commission, 1021-1024 Kruser v. Bank of America, 696-697 La Junta State Bank v. Travis, 637-638 LaSalle v. Medco Research, Inc., 951-952 Lehigh Presbytery v. Merchants Bancorp, Inc., 634 Lerro v. Quaker Oats Co., 954-955 Levin v. Kasmir World Travel, 715-716 LNS Investment Company, Inc. v. Phillips 66 Co., 406-407 Looney v. Farmers Home Administration, 548-Lucas v. South Carolina Coastal Council, 53-54 Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, 1006-1008 Luminous Neon, Inc. v. Parscale, 344 Lund v. Albrecht, 766 MacPherson v. Buick Motor Co., 12-13 Madsen v. Murrey & Sons Co., Inc., 418-419 Magee v. Walbro, 450-451

Mains Farm Homeowners Association v.

Mark v. FSC Securities Corp., 929-930

Martin Rispens & Son v. Hall Farms, Inc., 373

Worthington, 467-468

Marubeni American Corp. v. United States, 1159-1161 Maybee v. Jacob Bros. Motor Co., 119-120 McCray v. Carstensen, 122-123 Mears v. Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., 192-193 Mestco Distributors, Inc. v. Stamps, 662-663 Milano v. Freed, 756-757 Milligan v. Big Valley Corporation, 277-278 M. J. Oldenstedt Plumbing Co., Inc. v. K-Mart Corp., 333-335 Morauer v. Deak & Co., Inc., 361-362 Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York v. Hauser, 686-688 Murphy v. McNamara, 280-281 Navistar Financial Corporation v. Allen's Corner Garage and Towing Service, Inc., 5411-542 NBN Broadcasting, Inc. v. Sheridan Broadcasting Networks, Inc., 774–776 Neuhaus v. Richards, 528-529 Newman v. Schiff, 198-199 North River Homes, Inc. v. Bosarge, 401–402 Oceanside at Pine Point Condominium Owners Association v. Peachtree Doors, Inc., 383-384 O'Donnell v. American Employers Insurance Co., 356-357 Official Committee of Equality Security Holders v. Mabey, 599-600 Olin Corporation v. Federal Trade Commission, 1073-1075 Omnibank of Mantee v. United Southern Bank, 870-872 Oregon Natural Desert Association v. Bibles, 1012–1013 Orson, Inc. v. Miramax Film Corp., 1052-1054 Paciaronia v. Crane, 788-789 Paramount Communications, Inc. v. Time, Inc., 874-876 Powell v. Four Thousand Six Hundred Dollars J.S. Currency, 437–438 ProCD, Inc. v. Zeidenberg, 196-198 Professional Real Estate Investors, Inc. v. Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc., 1096–1098 Progress Printing Co. v. Nichols, 1126 Property Owners Insurance Co. v. Cope, 1190-1191

xxxii List of Cases Purina Mills, Inc. v. Security Bank & Trust, 625 Rauscher v. General Motors Corporation, 379-380 Reich v. Circle C Investments, Inc., 711-712 Republic of France v. United States, 133 Revlon, Inc. v. MacAndrews & Forbes Holdings, Inc., 858-859 Rexford Rand Corp. v. Ancel, 909-910 Rhode Island Hospital Trust National Bank v. Zapata Corp., 691-692 Rhue v. Dawson, 785-787 Ridenour v. Farm Bureau Insurance Co., 1188-1189 Rochin v. California, 9-10 Roggow v. Mineral Processing Corp., 137-138 Rosenberg v. Son, Inc., 317-318 Schreiber v. Carney, 893-894 Scioto Memorial Hospital Ass'n, Inc. v. Price Waterhouse, 966-968 Sculptchair, Inc. v. Century Arts, Ltd., 823–824 Sears, Roebuck & Co. v. Silch, 558, 561 SEC v. Dirks, 949-950 Securities and Exchange Commission v. Life Partners, Inc., 920-923 Shaw v. Agri-Mark, Inc., 898-899 Simeone v. First Bank National Association, 426-428 Sivers v. R & F Capital Corp., 843-844 Slivinsky v. Watkins-Johnson Company, 302-303 Smith v. Bitter, 836-837 Smith v. Cynfax Corporation, 720 Smith v. International Paper Co., 297 Special Products Manufacturing, Inc. v. Douglass, 312 Spectrum Sports, Inc. v. McQuillan, 1064-1066 Stambovsky v. Ackley, 242-243 Starr v. Pearle Vision, Inc., 116 Stieger v. Chevy Chase Savings Bank, 709-710 Straub v. B.M.T., 270-271 Strawn v. Canuso, 475-477 Stufft v. Stufft, 852-853

Subafilms, Ltd. v. MGM-Pathé Communications

Tenneco, Inc. v. FTC, 1080-1082

Co., 1174-1175

Texaco, Inc. v. Hasbrouck, 1085-1087 Tolbert v. Martin Marietta Corporation, 1106-1107 Triffin v. Dillabough, 639-641 Tu Loi v. New Plan Realty Trust, 134 United States v. Adlman, 985-987 United States v. Chem-Dyne Corp., 1145-1146 United States v. Dean, 1141-1142 United States v. Goulding, 1179-1181 United States v. Grinnell Corp., 1062-1063 United States v. Hall, 86-87 United States v. Lopez, 40 United States v. Midwest Suspension and Brake, 1132-1133 United States v. Natelli, 981-983 United States v. USX Corporation, 883-885 United States v. Waste Management, Inc., 1077-1078 United States Leather, Inc. v. H & W Partnership, 772–773 United Steel Workers v. Weber, 15-16 Universal Premium Acceptance Corp. v. York Bank & Trust Co., 623-624 Vrabel v. Acri, 777-778 Walker v. Crigler, 496-498 Warren v. Warren, 769-770 Warren v. United States, 707-708 Webster Street Partnership v. Sheridan, 262-263 Weiss v. Commissioner of Internal Revenue, 791-792 Weisz Graphics v. Peck Industries, 395-396 Weston v. Donnelly, 796-797 White v. Monsanto Co., 112-113 White v. Samsung Electronics America, Inc., 118-119 Wilkin v. 1st Source Bank, 245-246 Wilson v. Hammer Holdings, Inc., 416–417 Wired Music, Inc. v. Great River Steamboat Co., 731-732 Wisconsin Public Intervenor v. Mortier, 51-52 Wood v. Picillo, 480-481 Yong Cha Hong v. Marriott Corporation, 374-375 York v. Jones, 443-444 Zapata Corp. v. Maldonado, 906-907

BRIEF CONTENT

PART ONE Foundations of American Law

- 1 The Nature of Law, 2
- 2 The Resolution of Private Disputes, 20
- 3 Business and the Constitution, 36
- 4 Business Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility, and the Control and Governance of Corporations, 58

PART TWO Crimes and Torts

- 5 Crimes, 78
- 6 Intentional Torts, 107
- 7 Negligence and Strict Liability, 126
- 8 Intellectual Property, Competitive Torts, and Unfair Competition, 144

PART THREE Contracts

- 9 Introduction to Contracts, 174
- 10 The Agreement: Offer, 190
- 11 The Agreement: Acceptance, 207
- 12 Consideration, 223
- 13 Reality of Consent, 240
- 14 Capacity to Contract, 256
- 15 Illegality, 269
- 16 Writing, 289
- 17 Rights of Third Parties, 309
- 18 Performance and Remedies, 324

PART FOUR Sales

- 19 Formation and Terms of Sales Contracts, 352
- 20 Product Liability, 370
- 21 Performance of Sales Contracts, 394
- 22 Remedies for Breach of Sales Contracts, 412

PART FIVE Property

- 23 Personal Property and Bailments, 434
- 24 Real Property, 458
- 25 Landlord and Tenant, 493
- 26 Estates and Trusts, 513

PART SIX Credit

- 27 Introduction to Credit and Secured Transactions, 534
- 28 Security Interests in Personal Property, 556
- 29 Bankruptcy, 583

PART SEVEN Commercial Paper

- 30 Negotiable Instruments, 612
- 31 Negotiation and Holder in Due Course, 630
- 32 Liability of Parties, 657
- 33 Checks and Documents of Title, 681

PART EIGHT Agency

- 34 The Agency Relationship, 706
- 35 Third-Party Relations of the Principal and the Agent, 723

PART NINE Partnerships

- 36 Introduction to Forms of Business and Formation of Partnerships, 744
- 37 Operation of Partnership and Related Forms, 764
- 38 Dissolution, Winding Up, and Termination of Partnerships, 782
- 39 Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies, 801

PART TEN Corporations

- 40 History and Nature of Corporations, 818
- 41 Organization and Financial Structure of Corporations, 834
- 42 Management of Corporations, 857
- 43 Shareholders' Rights and Liabilities, 890
- 44 Securities Regulation, 918
- 45 Legal and Professional Responsibilities of Accountants, 963

PART ELEVEN Regulation of Business

- 46 Administrative Agencies, 992
- 47 The Federal Trade Commission Act and Consumer Protection Laws, 1018
- 48 Antitrust: The Sherman Act, 1040
- 49 The Clayton Act, the Robinson-Patman Act, and Antitrust Exemptions and Immunities, 1070
- 50 Employment Law, 1103
- 51 Environmental Law, 1129

PART TWELVE Special Topics

- 52 The Legal Environment for International Business, 1154
- 53 Insurance, 1184

PART ONE

Foundations of American Law

1 The Nature of Law, 2

Types and Classifications of Law, 3

The Types of Law, 3

Priority Rules, 5

Classifications of Law, 6

Jurisprudence, 6

Legal Positivism, 6

Natural Law, 7

American Legal Realism, 8

Sociological Jurisprudence, 8

Comparing the Schools, 10

The Functions of Law, 10

Legal Reasoning, 11

Case Law Reasoning, 11

Statutory Interpretation, 13

Limits on the Powers of Courts, 16

Appendix: Reading and Briefing

Cases, 17

2 The Resolution of Private Disputes, 20

State Courts and Their Jurisdiction, 20

Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, 20

Trial Courts, 21

State Appeals Courts, 21

State Court Jurisdiction and Venue, 21

Federal Courts and Their Jurisdiction, 23

Federal District Courts, 23

Specialized Federal Courts, 23

Federal Courts of Appeals, 23

The U.S. Supreme Court, 25

Civil Procedure, 26

Service of the Summons, 26

The Pleadings, 27

Motion to Dismiss, 28

Discovery, 28

Summary Judgment, 29

The Pretrial Conference, 29

The Trial, 29

Appeal, 29

Enforcing a Judgment, 31

Class Actions, 32

Alternative Dispute Resolution, 32

Common Forms of ADR, 32

3 Business and the Constitution, 36

An Overview of the U.S. Constitution, 36

The Evolution of the Constitution and the

Role of the Supreme Court, 37

The Coverage and Structure of This Chapter, 38

State and Federal Power to Regulate, 39

State Regulatory Power, 39

Federal Regulatory Power, 39

Independent Checks on the Federal

Government and the States, 41

Incorporation, 41

Government Action, 41

Means-Ends Tests, 42

Business and the First Amendment, 43

Due Process, 44

Equal Protection, 46

Independent Checks Applying Only to the

States, 49

The Contract Clause, 49

Burden on Interstate Commerce, 50

Federal Preemption, 51

The Takings Clause, 52

4 Business Ethics, Corporate Social Responsibility, and the Control and Governance of Corporations, 58

The Debate over the Large Corporation, 58

The Plan of This Chapter, 60

x Contents

Some Ethical Background, 60

Deontological and Consequentialist Ethical

Theories, 60

Rights Theories, 61

Utilitarianism, 62

Ethical Theory and the Corporate Social

Responsibility Debate, 62

Ethical Supports for Profit Maximization, 63

Ethical Supports for the Critics' Position, 64

Practical Problems with the Defenders'

Position, 65

Markets and Other Private Forces, 66

The Law, 67

Practical Problems with the Critics' Position, 69

Responses from within the Business Community, 69

The Corporate Governance Agenda, 71

Summary and Conclusions, 73

PART TWO

Crimes and Torts

5 Crimes, 78

The Criminal Law, 78

Nature of Crime, 79

Purpose of the Criminal Sanction, 79

Essentials of Crime, 81

Criminal Procedure, 84

Criminal Prosecutions, 84

Constitutional Safeguards, 85

White-Collar Crimes and the Dilemmas of

Corporate Control, 94

Introduction, 94

Evolution of Corporate Criminal Liability, 95

Corporate Criminal Liability Today, 95

Individual Liability for Corporate Crime, 96

New Directions, 98

Important White-Collar Crimes, 99

Regulatory Offenses, 99

Fraudulent Acts, 99

Bribery, 99

RICO, 99

Computer Crime, 102

6 Intentional Torts, 107

Interference with Personal Rights, 108

Battery, 108

Assault, 109

False Imprisonment, 110

Infliction of Emotional Distress, 111

Defamation, 113

Defenses and Privileges, 114

Defamation and the Constitution, 115

Invasion of Privacy, 117

Misuse of Legal Proceedings, 119

Deceit (Fraud), 119

Interference with Property Rights, 120

Trespass to Land, 120

Private Nuisance, 120

Conversion, 121

Other Examples of Intellectual Tort Liability, 123

7 Negligence and Strict Liability, 126

Negligence, 127

Breach of Duty, 127

Injury, 131

Causation, 132

Res Ipsa Loquitur, 135

Negligence Defenses, 135

Strict Liability, 138

Abnormally Dangerous Activities, 138

Statutory Strict Liability, 139

Tort Reform, 140

8 Unfair Competition, 144

Protection of Intellectual Property, 144

Patents, 144

Copyrights, 148

Trademarks, 152

Trade Secrets, 159

Definition of a Trade Secret, 160

Ownership and Transfer of Trade Secrets, 161

Misappropriation of Trade Secrets, 161

Commercial Torts, 162

Injurious Falsehood, 162

Interference with Contractual Relations, 164
Interference with Prospective Advantage, 165
Lanham Act Section 43(a), 167

PART THREE

Contracts

9 Introduction to Contracts, 174

The Nature of Contracts, 174

The Essence of a Contract, 174

The Functions of Contracts, 175

The Evolution of Contract Law, 176

Classical Contract Law, 176

The Underlying Assumptions of Contract Law Begin to Shift. 176

How Modern Contract Law Differs from Classical Contract Law, 176

Basic Contract Concepts and Types, 178

Bilateral and Unilateral Contracts, 178

Valid, Unenforceable, Voidable, and Void Contracts, 178

Express and Implied Contracts, 178

Executed and Executory Contracts, 178

Bodies of Law Governing Contracts, 179

The Uniform Commercial Code: Origin and Purposes, 179

Application of Article 2, 179

Application of the Common Law of Contracts, 179

Law Governing "Hybrid" Contracts, 179

Relationship of the UCC and the Common Law of Contracts, 181

Basic Differences in the Nature of Article 2 and the Common Law of Contracts, 181

Restatement (Second) of Contracts, 182

Nature and Origins, 182

Noncontract Obligations, 183

Ouasi-Contract, 183

Promissory Estoppel, 183

10 The Agreement: Offer, 190

Requirements for an Offer, 190

Intent to Contract, 191

Definiteness of Terms, 191

Communication to Offeree, 194

Special Offer Problem Areas, 194

Advertisements, 194

Rewards, 195

Auctions, 196

Bids, 196

Which Terms Are Included in the Offer? 196

Termination of Offers, 198

Terms of the Offer, 198

Lapse of Time, 199

Revocation, 200

Rejection, 201

Death or Insanity of Either Party, 202

Destruction of Subject Matter, 202

Intervening Illegality, 202

11 The Agreement: Acceptance, 207

What Is an Acceptance? 207

Intention to Accept, 207

Intent and Acceptance on the Offeror's Terms, 208

Communication of Acceptance, 212

When Is Acceptance Communicated? 212

Special Acceptance Problem Areas, 215

Acceptance in Unilateral Contracts, 215

Acceptance in Bilateral Contracts, 215

Silence as Acceptance, 216

Acceptance When a Writing Is Anticipated, 216

Acceptance of Ambiguous Offers, 218

Who Can Accept an Offer? 218

12 Consideration, 223

The Idea of Consideration, 223

Legal Value, 224

Adequacy of Consideration, 224

Illusory Promises: Not Legal Value, 226

Preexisting Duties, 227

Preexisting Duty and Agreements to Settle Debts, 231

Forbearance to Sue, 233

Bargained-For Exchange, 233

Past Consideration, 233

Moral Obligation, 233

Exceptions to the Consideration

Requirement, 233

Promissory Estoppel, 234

Debts Barred by Statutes of Limitations, 236

Debts Barred by Bankruptcy Discharge, 236

Charitable Subscriptions, 236

13 Reality of Consent, 240

Effect of Doctrines Discussed in This

Chapter, 240

Necessity for Prompt and Unequivocal

Rescission, 240

Misrepresentation and Fraud, 241

Nature of Misrepresentation, 241

Nature of Fraud, 241

Requirements for Rescission on the Ground of

Misrepresentation, 241

Untrue Assertion of Fact, 241

Materiality, 243

Actual Reliance, 243

Justifiable Reliance, 244

Mistake, 244

Nature of Mistake, 244

Mistakes of Law, 246

Negligence and the Right to Avoid for Mistake, 246

Effect of Mistake, 246

Mutual Mistake, 246

Mutual Mistakes in Drafting Writings, 247

Unilateral Mistake, 247

Duress, 248

Nature of Duress, 248

Elements of Duress, 248

Undue Influence, 250

Nature of Undue Influence, 250

14 Capacity to Contract, 256

Lack of Capacity, 256

Effect of Lack of Capacity, 257

Minors' Contracts, 257

Minors' Right to Disaffirm, 257

Period of Minority, 257

Emancipation, 257

Time of Disaffirmance, 257

Ratification, 258

Duty to Return Consideration upon

Disaffirmance, 258

Must the Disaffirming Minor Make Restitution?

A Split of Authority, 259

Effect of Misrepresentation of Age, 261

Minors' Obligation to Pay Reasonable Value of

Necessaries, 261

Capacity of Mentally Impaired Persons, 263

Theory of Incapacity, 263

Test for Mental Incapacity, 263

The Effect of Incapacity Caused by Mental

Impairment, 265

The Right to Disaffirm, 265

Contracts of Intoxicated Persons, 265

Intoxication and Capacity, 265

15 Illegality, 269

Meaning of Illegality, 269

Determining Whether an Agreement Is

Illegal, 270

Agreements in Violation of Statute, 271

Agreements Declared Illegal by Statute, 271

Agreements That Violate the Public Policy of a

Statute, 272

Agreements in Violation of Public Policy

Articulated by Courts, 274

Agreements in Restraint of Competition, 274

The Effect of Overly Broad Non-Competition

Clauses, 276

Exculpatory Clauses, 276

Unfairness in Agreements: Contracts of

Adhesion and Unconscionable

Contracts, 279

Unconscionability, 279

Consequences of Unconscionability, 279

Meaning of Unconscionability, 280

Substantive Unconscionability, 280

Contracts of Adhesion, 281

Effect of Illegality, 283

General Rule, 283

Excusable Ignorance of Facts or Legislation, 283

Rights of Parties Not Equally in the Wrong, 284

Rescission before Performance of Illegal Act, 284

Divisible Contracts, 284