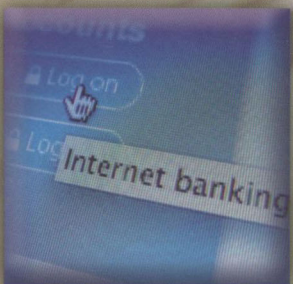
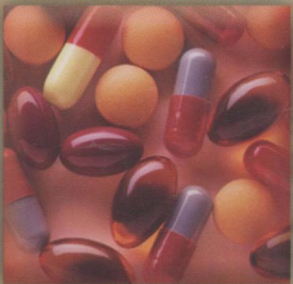


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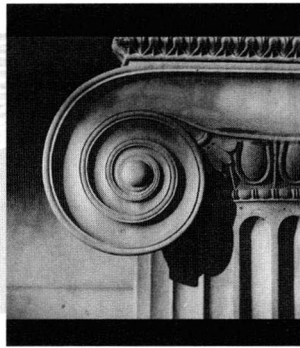
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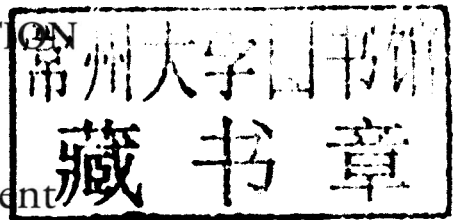
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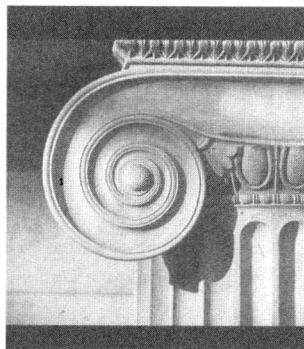
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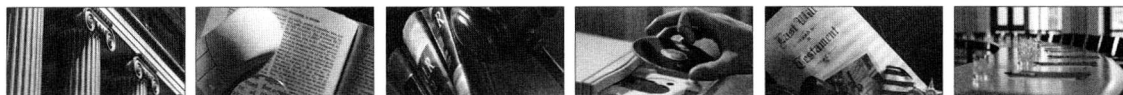
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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my nieces Rachel, Rebecca, Madelynn, and my nephew Joseph.

Cathy J. Okrent



Preface

■ WHAT IS NEW IN THE FOURTH EDITION?

As *Torts and Personal Injury Law* approaches two decades in publication, the fourth edition adds 30 new cases that include the following hot-button issues: malicious prosecution of the Duke lacrosse players, toxic mass torts, patient dumping, spoliation of evidence, sexual abuse by clergy, theft of donor eggs, spam e-mail fraud, and obesity caused by trans fats in fast food. Now the book contains a total of 66 annotated cases that were carefully selected for examination of various tort claims. We have also added a new and exciting feature that opens each chapter, “The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make and How to Avoid Them.” Each illustrates a dilemma, an ethical lapse, or other unfortunate experience that actually happened to workers I have known. While I wish these mistakes had never occurred to the many hardworking individuals featured, the point of sharing them is learning how to avoid such errors. Avoiding similar mistakes should keep the reader on a solid career path to success.

■ OVERVIEW

This text is an overview of tort law for the personal injury paralegal. Chapter 1 discusses tort law generally and historically; it also provides an overview of a civil case and alternate dispute resolution (ADR). Chapter 2 summarizes negligence. Chapter 3 discusses special negligence actions, including premises liability, vicarious liability, and negligent infliction of emotional distress. Chapter 4 focuses on the defenses to negligence actions. Chapters 5 and 6 consider intentional torts and injuries to persons. Chapter 7 is devoted to intentional torts and injuries to property. Chapter 8 addresses defenses to intentional torts. Chapter 9 covers strict, or absolute, liability. Chapter 10 illustrates product liability cases. Chapter 11 features special tort actions. Chapter 12 discusses tort immunities. Chapter 13 focuses on tort investigation.

■ CHAPTER FEATURES

Of course, favorite elements have all been retained. Chapters begin with an outlined introduction. Chapters end with a summary, review questions, additional

problems, and a list of key terms that were used throughout the chapter, in addition to chapter-specific Internet resources. Many recent cases have been added.



The running glossary features some standard definitions from *Oran's Dictionary of the Law*, © 2008, Delmar Cengage Learning, to help students learn or refresh their knowledge regarding these terms.

The text combines theoretical and practical applications. Accompanying each tort topic are hypothetical examples to illustrate how the abstract rules pertain to real life. Illustrative cases are included to portray the actual application of legal principles in appellate court opinions, legal encyclopedia summaries, and the *Restatement (Second) of Torts*.

All cases included are for educational purposes, as examples. The cases have been heavily edited, and most citations omitted, so as to include as many cases in the text as possible. The reader should always refer to original sources and verify that there have been no recent changes in the law in a particular jurisdiction. Sample letters, forms, and reports are included for illustrative purposes. The people named in the exhibits and hypotheticals are all fictional; any resemblance to known people is purely coincidental.

■ SUPPLEMENTAL TEACHING MATERIALS

Instructor's Manual

- An Instructor's Manual and TestBank by the author of the text accompanies this edition and has been greatly expanded to incorporate all changes in the text and to provide comprehensive teaching support. It includes chapter summaries, chapter outlines, lecture hints, problems, and projects.
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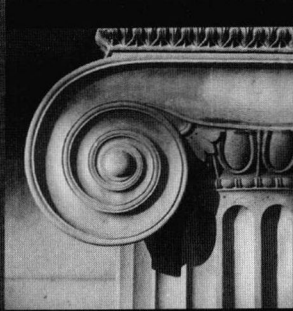
Online Companion™

The Online Companion™ contains Torts Trends features, an additional chapter covering paralegal ethics, additional cases, and some sample forms, projects, and Web links. The Online Companion™ can be found at www.paralegal.delmar.cengage.com in the Online Companion™ section of the Website.

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Come visit our Web site at www.paralegal.delmar.cengage.com, where you will find valuable information such as hot links and sample materials to download, as well as other Delmar Cengage Learning products.

Please note that the Internet resources are of a time-sensitive nature and URL addresses may often change or be deleted.



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Torts and Personal Injury Law could not have been produced without the dedication of many people. I thank my editors at Delmar (in particular, Shelley Esposito, Melissa Riveglia, and Lyss Zaza) and the American Law Institute, the *National Law Journal*, and the *Rutgers Computer & Technology Law Journal*, for allowing use of reprinted portions of their materials.

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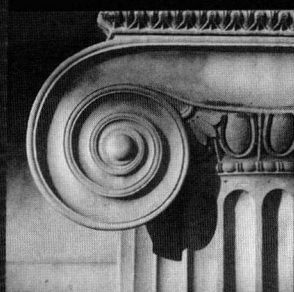


Table of Cases

A

Adger v. Dillard Department Stores 40
Amrak Productions, Inc. v. Morton 160–2

B

Benzene Litigation, In re 273–5
Brown v. Hearst Corp. 172–4

C

*California Department of Toxic Substances Control
v. Payless Cleaners* 184–5
Carroll v. W.R. Grace & Co. 336–8
Cereghino v. Boeing Co. 263–4
Colby v. Noah 20–1
Conti v. Spitzer Auto World Amherst, Inc. 128–9

D

Decker v. Princeton Packet, Inc. 169–70
Delahanty v. Hinckley 267–8, 299
Delaney v. Archdiocese of Philadelphia 146–8
Demo v. Red Roof Inns, Inc. 75–7
Deuschle v. Jobe 140–1
Douglas v. Gibson 29–31

E

Estiverne v. Sak's Fifth Avenue 204–5
Evans v. Duke University 153–4
Evans v. Evans 164–7

G

Gergis v. Miccio 83–4
Gordon v. Winston 258–9

H

Higgins v. E.I. Dupont de Nemours & Co. 303–4
Hoffman v. Capital Cities/ABC, Incorporated 155–7
Hossler v. Hammel 201–2
Hoyte v. Yum! Brands, Inc. 275–6

J

Jacobs v. City of Jacksonville 326–8
*Joint Eastern & Southern Districts Asbestos
Litigation, In re* 264–7
Jurco v. State 224–6, 241–2, 244

K

Knight v. Jewett 217–9
Koepnick v. Sears, Roebuck & Co. 192–4
Koester v. VCA Animal Hospital 190–1

L

Lieberman v. Marino 354–6
Lineberry v. State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. 158–9

M

McDonald's Coffee, A Burning Issue 31–2
Mezrah v. Bevis 27–8
Mitchell v. Globe International Publishing, Inc. 141–3
Murphy v. Lord Thompson Manor, Inc. 79–80

O

Otero v. Fazio 50–1

P

Palsgraf v. Long Island Railroad 47–9

Pardo v. L.A. Fitness 101–2

Penn Harris Madison School Corp. v. Howard 96–7

Pollicino v. Roemer and Featherstonhaugh P.C. 104–6

R

Rash v. Workers' Compensation Appeals

Board 246–7

Reading v. Mahon 197–8

Roach v. Lee 130–3

Rogers v. T.J.X. Cos. 125–6

Russell Corporation v. Sullivan et. al., Avondale

Mills, Inc. 186–9

S

Sant v. Hines Interests, Limited Partnership 34–6

School Board of Miami Dade County v. Trujillo 122

Shehyn v. United States 229–30

Sherk v. Indiana Waste Systems, Inc. 321–2

Shields v. Zuccarini 208–10

Silvester v. Spring Valley Country Club 319–20

Smith v. Scripto-Tokai Corp. 295–6

Sobczak v. General Motors Corporation 285–6

*Stone v. The Regents of the University
of California* 350–2

*Stoshak v. East Baton Rouge Parish School
Board* 118–9

Sullivan v. Robertson Drug Co., Inc. 42–3

Sweeney v. Aurora Casket Company, Inc. 289–90

T

Torres v. Sarasota County Public Hospital 340–2

U

Uddin v. Embassy Suites Hotel et al. 68–9

*United States Environmental Protection Agency v.
The Port Authority of New York and
New Jersey, et al.* 332–4

V

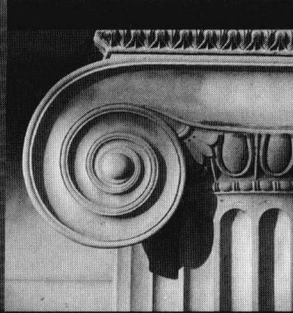
Vorvis v. Southern New England Telephone Co.
360–1

W

Wells v. Hickman 357–8

Williams v. Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. 22–3

Wroncy v. Klemp 114–5



Contents

Preface	xv
Acknowledgments	xviii
Table of Cases	xix

chapter 1

Introduction to Torts and Legal Analysis

The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make

& How to Avoid Them 1

■ Introduction 2

■ Torts Defined 2

Sources of Tort Law 3

Broad Categories of Tort Law 3

■ History of Tort Law 4

The King's Writs 4

Evolution of Modern Tort Law 5

■ Public Policy Objectives in Tort Law 5

Protecting Persons and Property: Accountability 5

Compensating the Victim 5

Minimum Standards of Social Conduct: Deterrence 5

Deterring Violations of Those Standards 6

Allocating Losses among Different Individuals
or Groups 6

■ Analyzing Hypothetical Problems 7

Analytical Framework for Hypotheticals: *IRAC* 7

Factual Distinctions Result in Different Conclusions 7

■ Solving Tort Problems 8

Tort Analysis: From General to Specific 8

Hypothetical 8

■ Overview of a Civil Case 10

Complaint 10

Answer 10

Discovery 10

Pretrial Procedures 11

Trial 11

Post-Trial Procedures 11

■ Case Resolution 11

Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) 12

Arbitration 12

Mediation 12

Minitrial 12

Rent-a-Judge 12

Summary Jury Trial 13

■ Summary 13

■ Key Terms 14

■ Problems 14

■ Review Questions 15

■ Helpful Websites 15

chapter 2

Negligence

17

The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make

 & How to Avoid Them 17

■ Introduction 18

■ Negligence 18

 Negligence Defined: Reasonable Care 18

 Acts or Omissions 19

■ Elements of Negligence 19

■ Scope of Duty and Standard of Reasonable Care 19

 Duty Defined 20

 Scope of Duty 20

■ Breach of Duty: Foreseeability 21

 Foreseeable Plaintiffs Theory 23

 Standard of Reasonable Care 24

 Professional Malpractice 26

 Special Duty Based upon Special Relationship 29

 Proving Breach of Duty 32

 Burdens of Proof and Rejoinder 32

 Res Ipsa Loquitur 33

 Elements of Res Ipsa Loquitur 33

 Violation of a Statute 38

■ Causation of Injury 38

 Cause-in-Fact 38

 Substantial Factor Analysis 39

 Joint and Several Liability 41

 Contribution 43

 Indemnity 44

 Courts and Causation 44

 Proximate Cause 45

 Foreseeability of Injury 46

 Proximate Cause and Scope of Duty Combined 47

■ Damages 52

 Compensatory Damages 52

 Nominal Damages 53

 Punitive Damages 54

 “Taking the Victim as You Find Him” 54

■ Summary 55

■ Key Terms 56

■ Problems 57

■ Review Questions 57

■ Helpful Websites 58

chapter 3

Special Negligence Actions

59

The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make

 & How to Avoid Them 59

■ Introduction 60

■ Vicarious Liability 60

 Vicarious Liability Defined 61

 Respondeat Superior 61

 Frolic and Detour Rule 62

 Coming and Going Rule 62

 Independent Contractors 62

 Motor Vehicle Vicarious Liability 63

■ Premises Liability 65

 Land Owner's Different Duties of Reasonable Care 66

 Victim's Status on Land Defines Scope of Duty 66

 Modern Judicial Trends 66

 Land Owner's “Zero Duty” toward Trespassers 66

 Special Rule for Trespassing Children: Attractive Nuisance 67

 The *Restatement (Second) of Torts* 69

 Land Owner's Duty of Reasonable Care toward Licensees 71

 Land Owner's Highest Duty of Reasonable Care toward Invitees 72

 Using Traditional Negligence Theory in Land Owner Cases 73

■ Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress 77

 Extra Elements in the Common Law 77

 Impact Rule 78

 Physical Manifestations Rule 78

 Zone of Danger Rule 78

 Family Relationships Rule 80

- Sensory Perception Rule 80
- California Approach 81
- **Negligence Per Se 83**
 - Defenses to Negligence Per Se 83
 - Plaintiff within Class of Persons Protected by Statute 84
 - Absolute Liability Mislabeled as Negligence Per Se 84
 - Toxic Torts as Negligence Per Se 85

- **Summary 86**
- **Key Terms 87**
- **Problems 87**
- **Review Questions 88**
- **Helpful Websites 89**

chapter 4

Defenses to Negligence

90

- The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make & How to Avoid Them 90**
- **Introduction 91**
- **How Negligence Defenses Are Used 91**
- **Contributory Negligence and Last Clear Chance 92**
 - Contributory Negligence Defined 92
 - Last Clear Chance 92
- **Comparative Negligence 93**
 - Elements 94
 - The Balancing Act 94
 - Criticism of Comparative Negligence 95

- **Assumption of Risk 98**
 - Voluntary Assumption of Known Risk 99
 - Full Appreciation of Danger 100
 - Proof of Assumption of Risk 100
 - The Complete Defense 100
- **Statutes of Limitations 103**
- **Summary 107**
- **Key Terms 107**
- **Problems 107**
- **Review Questions 109**
- **Helpful Websites 109**

chapter 5

Intentional Torts: Injuries to Persons

110

- The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make & How to Avoid Them 110**
- **Introduction 111**
- **Intentional Torts in General 111**
 - Intent and Action Together 112
 - Crimes versus Torts 112
- **Assault and Battery 113**
 - Assault Defined 113
 - Battery Defined 116
- **Patient Dumping 119**

- **False Imprisonment 121**
 - Confinement 121
- **Sexual Harassment 127**
- **Spoilation of Evidence 130**
- **Summary 133**
- **Key Terms 134**
- **Problems 134**
- **Review Questions 135**
- **Helpful Websites 135**

chapter 6

Intentional Torts: More Injuries to Persons

137

The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make**& How to Avoid Them** 137■ **Introduction** 138■ **Infliction of Emotional Distress** 138

Intentional Infliction 139

Reckless Infliction 143

■ **Fraud and Misrepresentation** 145

Definitions and Distinctions 145

False Statements Intended to Deceive 146

Knowledge of Falsity of Information 146

Tortfeasor's Profit from Deception 146

Justifiable Reliance 146

Innocent Party's Injury 146

■ **Malicious Prosecution****and Abuse of Process** 149

Malicious Prosecution 149

Abuse of Process 150

■ **Invasion of Privacy** 154

Appropriation 155

Unreasonable Intrusion 157

Public Disclosure of Private Facts 157

False Light in the Public Eye 159

■ **Defamation: Libel and Slander** 163

Nature of the Statement 164

Publication 167

Harm to Reputation in the Community 167

Public Figures 168

Slander Per Se 168

Truth and Privilege as Absolute Defenses 168

■ **Summary** 174■ **Key Terms** 175■ **Problems** 176■ **Review Questions** 176■ **Helpful Websites** 177

chapter 7

Intentional Torts: Injuries to Property

178

The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make**& How to Avoid Them** 178■ **Introduction** 179■ **Trespass to Land** 179

Elements of Trespass to Land 179

Entry Defined 180

No Actual Harm Required 180

Unauthorized Entry 180

Intentional Interference 181

Possession: Land Owner's Exclusive Right
to Use 181■ **Toxic Tort Actions** 183

Nature of the Problem 183

Toxic Trespass 186

Importance of Environmental

Statutes 189

■ **Trespass to Chattel** 189

Unauthorized Possession of Another's Chattel 190

Unauthorized Interference with Use 190

Intent to Deprive or Interfere 192

■ **Conversion** 195

History 195

Elements of Conversion 195

Depriving of Possession 195

Intent to Deprive and Convert to Own Use 196

Lack of Consent 196

Conversion as a Crime 198

■ **Slander of Title, Commercial Disparagement,
and Defamation by Computer** 199

Slander of Title 199

Commercial Disparagement 200

Defamation by Computer 203

■ **Summary** 210■ **Key Terms** 210■ **Problems** 211■ **Review Questions** 212■ **Helpful Websites** 212

chapter 8

Defenses to Intentional Torts

214

The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make

& How to Avoid Them 214

■ Introduction 215

■ Consent 216

Informed Consent: Voluntary Acceptance 216

Implied Consent 217

■ Self-Defense 220

Reasonable Force 220

Countering an Attacking or Offensive
Force 221Force Necessary to Prevent Injury, Offensive Contact,
or Confinement 221

■ Defense of Persons or Property 223

Defense of Persons: Elements 223

Defense of Property: Elements 223

■ Rightful Repossession 227

Retaking Possession of Personal Property 227

Prompt Repossession Efforts 227

Wrongful Denial of Possession 228

Wrongful Dispossession 228

■ Mistake 231

The *Restatement (Second) of Torts* 232

■ Privilege 233

Motives and Socially Desirable Goals 234

Less Injurious Alternatives 234

Similarity between Privilege and Other Defenses 234

The *Restatement (Second)* Position 235

■ Necessity 236

Thwarting a More Substantial Harm 237

External Forces 237

Reasonably Necessary Action 237

The *Restatement (Second)* Position 238■ Public Officer's Immunity for Legal Process
Enforcement 239

Service of Process 240

Execution Sales 240

Attachment or Replevin 240

Arrest by Warrant 240

Prosecutors and Judges 241

■ Warrantless Arrest by Law Enforcement Officials
or Citizens 242

■ Statutes of Limitations 244

■ Workers' Compensation 245

■ Summary 247

■ Key Terms 249

■ Problems 249

■ Review Questions 250

■ Helpful Websites 251

chapter 9

Strict, or Absolute, Liability

252

The Biggest Mistakes Paralegals Make

& How to Avoid Them 252

■ Introduction 253

■ An Overview of Strict Liability 253

Fault Is Irrelevant 253

Limitations to Absolute Liability 253

Public Policy Objectives behind Strict Liability 254

Insurance Analogy 254

Historical Development 254

■ Animal Owners' Liability 254

Wild Animals Defined 255

Ownership of Wildlife 255

Importance of Wildlife Ownership 255

Comparison with Domesticated Animals 256

Vicious Propensity Rule 256

Defenses in Animal Absolute Liability Cases 256

Dog-Bite Statutes 258

■ Abnormally Dangerous Activities 260

Restatement (Second) Rule 260

Defenses 262

Public Policy Objectives behind Statutory
Immunity 267

■ Scope of Liability: Proximate Cause 270

No Duty of Reasonable Care 270