

AMERICAN
CASEBOOK
SERIES

TORTS AND COMPENSATION
PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR INJURY

Seventh Edition



Dan B. Dobbs, Paul T. Hayden, Ellen M. Bublick

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AMERICAN CASEBOOK SERIES®

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DEDICATION

To Patricia H. Waterfall.—D.B.D.

*To Diane, without whom my accomplishments would be fewer
and far less meaningful.—P.T.H.*

*To Daniel, Harrison and David, may you go
from strength to strength.—E.M.B.*

PREFACE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

This casebook is a teaching tool. We strive to produce a book that presents contemporary cases and issues, but equally one that presents the unchallenged core of lawyering, judging and thoughtful criticism. We also want to engage students without mystifying them.

While the foundation of tort law is timeless, the law is anything but static. This edition, as with our earlier editions, thus reflects new developments in cases, topics and academic commentary that have occurred in the last few years. There are over two dozen new main cases, many new case abstracts and hundreds of citations to newer cases. These new materials not only carry a contemporary feel for the issues and outcomes, but often add perceptibly to the clarity and the challenges the issues present.

New cases are not the only occasion for changes. We have all learned from experience in teaching these materials, and have tried to profit from every question raised by students and every suggestion made by teachers. This edition's changes reflect that added experience, even if we have not made every change every person has suggested.

We remain committed to providing a book that is as lean as possible, consistent with fully covering core materials and giving professors sufficient leeway to cover some topics but not others. To accomplish this goal required us to make some cuts from the last edition. Sometimes we simply tightened materials, or replaced older with newer. We also cut some materials entirely, either because they seemed redundant or too specialized, or in the belief that few professors had time to reach them.

This book deals centrally with injuries to persons, and reading about and discussing such serious matters can be difficult. But we have always approached torts by trying to present the reality of conflicts in tort law and we continue to do so in this edition. Tort law is about real people and real injuries, and the cases in this book reflect that reality. Of course, much of that tort law reality is leavened more than occasionally by the absurd and unexpected. A torts class using this book will then be more than an exercise in solemn analysis of tragic situations; our experience tells us that smiles and laughter are neither rare nor inappropriate as students and professors discuss the law. We believe a good book will challenge students, yet provide a good time when possible.

Our primary criterion in selecting cases for inclusion in this book is whether they provide opportunities for analysis and for strengthening important lawyering skills such as reading, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis of legal materials. This book has never been merely a col-

lection of illusory “majority rules.” We hope students using this book will realize early on that both the cases and the notes aim to sharpen intellectual skills and the understanding of legal process as well as to impart information.

Torts is a varied subject that crosses a wide range of types of conduct and types of injuries. Personal injury torts remain its solid core for most first-year classes, however, and we focus mainly on such torts, including products liability. But most personal injuries are redressed through alternative means, such as workers’ compensation, social security, or private insurance. A picture of injury law, therefore, includes those topics and they remain a part of the Seventh Edition. And while we recognize the importance of economic torts to the real world, we continue to limit our coverage of such torts to core rules. This means that these materials cannot substitute for advanced courses that cover defamation, misrepresentation, intellectual property, interference with contract, employment law and the like. Our book does provide an introduction to those topics that should suffice to help students recognize that tort law is not exclusively injury law, and perhaps to help them decide on advanced electives.

A Note on Editing Conventions

The main “cases” reproduced in this (and almost any) casebook are opinions of appellate judges. Such opinions are rarely succinct. They almost always include a good deal of matter on procedural points and discussions of many arguments made by lawyers that are not relevant to the ideas we want to highlight and develop. They also usually include many citations to cases as precedent or example. Editing is therefore necessary.

When we omit text in opinions, we indicate the omission by ellipses. Sometimes we add an editorial summary of some point ourselves; we put that in brackets. We don’t usually mark out omissions of citations of precedent and academic commentary at all, because such citations are so prevalent that every page would be cluttered with dots if we did. We likewise omit footnotes in opinions without marking the omission; when we retain footnotes we also retain their original numbering. Finally, in quoted materials, we usually omit any internal quotation marks to make materials more readable.

We repeatedly cite a number of standard works on torts in this book. A major work in six volumes is Fowler V. Harper, Fleming James, Jr., and Oscar S. Gray, *The Law of Torts* (3d ed. 2007). We usually cite this work as Harper, James & Gray, giving the appropriate section and publication date. A second work is our own four-volume treatise, which is cited as Dobbs, Hayden & Bublick, *The Law of Torts* (2d ed. 2011). Our treatise is available on Westlaw under the DOBBL0T database name.

This edition contains numerous citations to the Restatements of Torts, and sometimes to the Restatements of Agency or other areas of rel-

evant law. The Restatements of the Law in various editions are the product of the American Law Institute, a private law-reform group. The Restatements are not themselves law, but have proven quite influential with courts, many of which have voluntarily adopted the black-letter rules these Restatements contain. The newest torts Restatements are designated as the Restatement (Third) of Torts, with subtitles to indicate the particular area covered—for instance, the Restatement of the Law of Torts: Liability for Physical and Emotional Harm.

We hope that professors and students alike will learn from and enjoy the many thoughtful and thought-provoking cases and materials presented here.

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March 2013

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