# CONTEMPORARY BUSINESS and ONLINE COMMERCE LAW

SIXTH EDITION



Henry R. Cheeseman

# **Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law**

Legal, Internet, Ethical, and Global Environments

Sixth Edition

# HENRY R. CHEESEMAN

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#### **Preface**

#### To The Students

Each semester, as I stand up in front of a new group of business majors in my business law and legal environment classes, I am struck by the thought that, cases and statutes aside, I know two very important things that they have yet to learn. The first is that I draw as much from them as they do from me. Their youth, enthusiasm, questions, and even the doubts a few of them hold about the relevance of law to their futures fuel my teaching. They don't know that every time they open their minds to look at an issue from a new perspective or critically question something they have previously taken for granted, I get a wonderful reward for the work that I do.

The other thing I know is that both teaching and learning the legal environment are all about stories. These stories come from the legal cases in this book, as well as the important cases and stories that each professor personally brings to the classroom. These stories provide the framework on which students will hang everything they learn about the law in class. It is my hope that long after the specific language of cases or statutes have faded, students will retain that framework. Several years from now, "unintentional torts" may draw only a glimmer of recognition with business managers who learn about them as students in my class this year. However, they will likely recall the story of the woman who sued McDonald's for damages for serving her coffee that was too hot and caused her injuries. The story sticks and gives students the hook on which to hang the concepts.

I remind myself of these two facts every time I sit down to work on writing and revising *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law*, as well. My goal is to present business law and ethics in a way that will spur students to ask questions, to go beyond rote memorization.



Business law is an evolving outgrowth of its environment, and the legal environment keeps changing. This new sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law* emphasizes coverage of Internet law and electronic commerce as key parts of the legal environment. In addition, this book covers social, ethical, and international issues important to the study of business law.

It is my wish that my commitment to these goals shines through in this labor of love, and I hope you have as much pleasure in using it as I have had in creating it for you.

Henry Cheeseman



#### New to the Sixth Edition

#### Cases

More than 120 new cases in this book bring modern business law to life. These exciting new cases apply legal concepts in today's business environment. There are more than 210 cases in total in the sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law*, including more than 60 U.S. Supreme Court cases. The edited language of the reasoning in each case is in the words of the U.S. Supreme Court justices. The text also retains "Landmark Cases," such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States*, and others. Full versions of the cases featured in *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law* are available at www.prenhall.com/cheesemancases.

#### **Text and Examples**

The text of this sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law* has been time tested, reviewed by contemporary business law and legal environment professors, and praised for its clarity and understandability by students. More than 700 examples are integrated throughout to help students understand and apply the legal theories and concepts covered in the text. More than 90 "Contemporary Environment" special feature boxes cover modern cases, statutes, and laws that affect managers and businesses today.

#### Web-Based Learning

More than 1,100 relevant websites and web exercises engage students to explore business law further by using the Internet as a resource. Websites and web exercises appear after each case in the book. They also appear after special feature boxes and within the text of the sixth edition.

#### **Cyber Law**

Chapter 15, "E-Contracts, Internet Law, and Cyber Crimes," is a newly written chapter that covers important digital laws related to e-contracts, e-commerce, software licensing, domain names, computer law, and cyber crimes. There are 44 "Internet & Technology" special feature boxes that cover Internet law, cyber law, and e-commerce are presented throughout the text. This sixth edition also identifies the changes to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) that recognizes digital documents, signatures, and filings that promote e-commerce.

#### **Business Ethics**

Chapter 8, "Ethics of Managers and Social Responsibility of Business," examines the moral theories of business ethics and applies these theories to actual ethical issues confronted by today's managers and businesses. More than 70 "Ethics Spotlight" special feature boxes that address business ethics issues are presented throughout the chapters. The cases and special feature boxes in this sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law* are followed by more than 430 ethics questions that relate to the cases and issues. There are more than 100 end-of-chapter "Ethics Issue" cases.

#### **Special Coverage**

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act is covered extensively in Chapter 28, "Corporate Governance and the Sarbanes-Oxley Act," and other chapters of the sixth edition. Chapter 24, "Bankruptcy and Reorganization," has been completely rewritten to incorporate the major changes made by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. Chapter 41, "International and World Trade Law," covers public and private laws that apply to the global business environment. This sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law* contains more than 40 "International Law" special feature boxes that discuss international law.

#### **New Custom Database Option**

Do you want to use a book tailored to your course? This new edition of Cheeseman is designed to do so. Now part of the Pearson Custom Database solution, we are making it easier for users and new adopters to make Cheeseman fit their course perfectly. Pick the material that you want, include other material as needed, and order and cover to your choice. All will come produced from our custom database ready for your course. Use the order form in the front of sample copies to learn more about this option, preview, and order. Please contact your local Pearson sales rep for more information or if the form is missing.

#### **Supplements that Accompany the Sixth Edition**

To ensure consistency of style, approach, and coverage among the key print and online supplements, these critical pieces were created by an author team working in conjunction with Henry Cheeseman. Supplements are provided for both instructors and students.

#### For Instructors

We offer a variety of both print and electronic supplements to meet the unique teaching needs of each instructor. Electronic versions of the supplements that accompany this text are available for download by instructors only at our Instructor Resource Center, at www.prenhall.com.

**COMPANION WEBSITE** This edition's companion website, accessible at www.prenhall. com/cheeseman, contains an online study guide, including true/false and multiple-choice questions, as well as PowerPoint presentations for each chapter. Also available online at www.prenhall.com/cheesemancases are the full-length versions of the cases featured in this sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law*.

**INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL** The Instructor's Manual (978-0-13-601502-4) provides a comprehensive outline of each text chapter. Also included are "teacher-to-teacher dialogues" that offer teaching suggestions for each chapter, as well as key chapter objectives.

**TEST ITEM FILE** The Test Item File (978-0-13-601504-8) is a bank of questions specifically designed to aid in the preparation of tests. Each question includes a corresponding difficulty level, allowing for the creation of tailor-made testing material.

**TESTGEN** TestGen is test management software that contains all the material from the Test Item File. This user-friendly software allows instructors to view, edit, and add test questions with just a few clicks of the mouse.

**POWERPOINT PRESENTATION** A ready-to-use PowerPoint slideshow, designed for class-room presentation, is available. Instructors can use it as-is or edit content to fit particular classroom needs.

**INSTRUCTOR'S RESOURCE CENTER ON CD-ROM** The Instructor's Resource Center (978-0-13-601471-3) is a compilation of instructor's tools, including the Instructor's Manual, PowerPoint presentation, Test Item File, and TestGen.

**VIDEOS** Available in DVD format, 10 videos (978-0-13-601474-4) demonstrate how law works in everyday situations. Scenarios include contracts, product liability, employment discrimination, torts, third-party rights, and more.

#### **For Students**

**STUDY GUIDE** The Study Guide is a student aid designed to facilitate learning by enforcing key concepts. Each chapter contains a chapter overview, a list of objectives, and an explanation of the practical applications of the chapter. Also included are a "helpful hints" section, a sample quiz, and several exercises.

#### **Acknowledgments**

When I first began writing this book, I was a solitary figure, researching cases in the law library and writing text at my desk. As time passed, others entered the scene—editors, research assistants, reviewers, production personnel—and touched the project and made it better. Although my name appears on the cover of this book, the project is no longer mine alone. I humbly thank the following persons for their contributions to this project:

# The Exceptional Supplements Team and Prentice Hall Professionals

Many thanks to Kerri Tomasso, who held the positions of both the project manager and production manager for this book, for shepherding this sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law* through the many phases of editing and production at Prentice Hall. I'd also like to thank Heidi Allgair of GGS Book Services, as the editor who skillfully and cheerfully navigated this complex project to publication. Kerri and Heidi have worked on several of my previous books, and I hope that they will each work on my future books.

The supplements package was authored by a remarkable team, with exceptional contributions from Gregory Cermignano of Widener University, Melinda Hickman of Fort Hays State University, and Michael Katz of Delaware State University.

I also appreciate the support of the management at Prentice Hall, including Kierra Kashickey, project manager; Steve Sartori, acquisitions editor; Eric Svendsen, editor-inchief; Sally Yagan, editorial director; and Jerome Grant, president of Prentice Hall Business Publishing, for their support in the publication of this book.

I would especially like to thank the professionals of the sales staff of Prentice Hall Publishing, including Jodi Bassett, marketing manager, and all the knowledgeable sales representatives without whom the success of this textbook book would be impossible.

#### **Personal Acknowledgments**

#### My family

Your family counts the most, no matter how far away they are geographically. My parents—Henry B. and Florence, deceased—who have had a profound effect on me and my ability to be a professor and writer; my brother Gregory and the special bond that exists between us as twins; and to the rest of my family, Gregory's wife Lana, my sister Marcia, my nephew Gregory and niece Nikki, and my great-nieces Lauren and Addison. My entire family lives in Saint Ignace, Michigan, which I will always call "home."

#### **Students**

The students at the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California (USC). Their spirit, energy, and joy are contagious, and I love teaching them (and, as importantly, they teaching me). At the end of each semester, I am sad that the students I have come to know are moving on. But each new semester brings another group of students, who it will be a joy to teach. And the cycle continues.

#### **Research Assistant Ashley Anderson**

Ashley is an undergraduate and pre-law student at the Marshall School of Business at USC who has been my research assistant for the past three years. Ashley has done an absolutely excellent job in finding new cases to be used in the sixth edition of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law*. Ashley has also done a superb job working with the editors of

Prentice Hall in the proofreading and production of my business law books. She is president of the pre-law society and a member of USC's moot court team. Next year, she will move on to law school, and I will miss her.

#### Research Assistant Jason Towne

Jason is an undergraduate and pre-law student at the Marshall School of Business at USC. Jason has been my research assistant for two years, and in that capacity has researched cases, statutes, and current events. Jason has also used his excellent writing ability to create special feature boxes on contemporary law, ethics, and international law for this book. Next year, Jason will also be on to law school, and I will miss him.

#### Colleagues at USC

There are certain people and colleagues who are enjoyable to work with and who have made my life easier as I have endeavored to write this revision of *Contemporary Business and Online Commerce Law*. I would like to thank Kerry Fields, my colleague professor who teaches other business law courses at USC, who is an excellent professor and wonderful friend. I would also like to thank Helen Pitts, Marilyn Johnson, Terry Lichvar, Debra Jacobs, and Jean Collins at the Marshall School of Business, who are always a joy to work with.

While writing this Preface and Acknowledgment, I have thought about the many hours I have spent researching, writing, and preparing this manuscript. I have loved every minute, and the knowledge gained has been sufficient reward for the endeavor.

I hope this book and its supplementary materials will serve you as well as they have served me.

With joy and sadness, emptiness and fullness, honor and humility, I surrender the fruits of this labor.

Henry R. Cheeseman

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