

Contents



<i>Preface to the Sixth Edition</i>	<i>xix</i>
<i>Preface to the First Edition</i>	<i>xxi</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>xxv</i>
<i>Notes on the Text</i>	<i>xxvii</i>

PART I: OVERVIEW 1

CHAPTER 1

AN INTRODUCTION TO TORTS 3

I. What Is a Tort?	3
II. An Example of a Tort Suit	5
<i>Walter v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.</i>	6
A. Common Law and Statute	12
B. Responsibilities in Tort	16
C. The Role of Lawyers	18
D. Proceeding Through Court	23
III. Tort Law in Context	32
A. Tort Contrasted with Other Areas of Law	32
B. The Politics of Tort Law	38
C. Some Statistics Concerning the Tort System	41
IV. Using This Book	45
References/Further Reading	45

PART II: NEGLIGENCE: LIABILITY FOR PHYSICAL HARMS 49

CHAPTER 2

THE DUTY ELEMENT 51

I. Negligence: A Brief Overview	51
A. Elements of the Prima Facie Case	51
B. The Injury Element	52
C. Focusing on Physical Harms	54
II. The Duty Element and the General Duty of Reasonable Care	55

A. Easy Cases: The Duty to Conduct Oneself with Reasonable Care for the Person and Property of Others	55
B. A Sampling of Easy Duty Cases Drawn from English Law	56
C. The Evolution of Duty Rules	59
<i>MacPherson v. Buick Motor Co.</i>	63
<i>Mussivand v. David</i>	71
III. Affirmative Duties of Care and the Distinction Between Misfeasance and Nonfeasance	78
A. The Range of Cases in Which Negligence Law Does Not Recognize a General Duty of Care Owed to Others	78
B. The Misfeasance-Nonfeasance Distinction and Affirmative Duties	79
<i>Osterlind v. Hill</i>	81
<i>Baker v. Fenneman & Brown Properties, LLC</i>	82
<i>Tarasoff v. The Regents of the University of California</i>	96
IV. Premises Liability	113
<i>Leffler v. Sharp</i>	114
<i>Demag v. Better Power Equip., Inc.</i>	118
V. Pure Economic Loss	131
<i>Aikens v. Debow</i>	131
References/Further Reading	147

CHAPTER 3

THE BREACH ELEMENT

I. Duty, Breach, and the Meaning of “Negligence”	151
<i>Martin v. Evans</i>	152
<i>Myers v. Heritage Enters., Inc.</i>	157
<i>Jones v. Port Authority of Allegheny County</i>	162
<i>Campbell v. Kovich</i>	163
<i>Adams v. Bullock</i>	165
II. Defining the Person of Ordinary Prudence	173
<i>Vaughan v. Menlove</i>	174
<i>Appelhans v. McFall</i>	176
III. Industry and Professional Custom	188
<i>The T.J. Hooper</i>	188
<i>Johnson v. Riverdale Anesthesia Associates</i>	191
<i>Condra v. Atlanta Orthopaedic Group</i>	194
<i>Largey v. Rothman</i>	199
IV. Reasonableness, Balancing, and Cost-Benefit Analysis	210
<i>United States v. Carroll Towing Co.</i>	210
<i>Rhode Island Hosp. Trust Nat’l Bank v. Zapata Corp.</i>	215
V. <i>Res Ipsa Loquitur</i>	224
<i>Byrne v. Boadle</i>	226
<i>Kambat v. St. Francis Hosp.</i>	227
References/Further Reading	236

CHAPTER 4

THE CAUSATION ELEMENT

	239
I. Key Terms and Concepts	239
A. Actual and Proximate Cause	239
B. Actual Cause, the Jury, the But-For Test, and “Substantial Factor”	240
C. Two Meanings of “Caused”	242
D. “A” Cause, Not “The” Cause	242
II. Proving Actual Causation Under the Preponderance Standard	244
A. The But-For Test: Basic Applications	244
<i>Muckler v. Buchl</i>	244
B. Actual Causation, Toxic Torts, and Loss of a Chance	249
<i>Ruffin v. BP Exploration & Production, Inc.</i>	251
<i>Falcon v. Memorial Hospital</i>	261
III. Multiple Necessary and Multiple Sufficient Causes	270
<i>McDonald v. Robinson</i>	270
<i>Ford Motor Co. v. Boomer</i>	273
IV. Causation and Tortfeasor Identification	291
A. Alternative Causation	292
<i>Summers v. Tice</i>	292
B. Market Share Liability	296
<i>Sindell v. Abbott Labs.</i>	296
References/Further Reading	308

CHAPTER 5

ALIGNING THE ELEMENTS: PROXIMATE CAUSE AND PALSGRAF

	313
I. Proximate Cause	314
A. What Makes a Cause “Proximate” (Not “Remote”)?	314
<i>Union Pump Co. v. Allbritton</i>	315
<i>Jolley v. Sutton London Borough Council</i>	324
B. Intervening Wrongdoing: Superseding Cause as a Special Case of Proximate Cause	335
<i>Port Authority of New York & New Jersey v. Arcadian Corp.</i>	340
II. The Relational Aspect of Breach of Duty: <i>Palsgraf</i>	360
<i>Palsgraf v. Long Island Railroad Co.</i>	361
<i>Petitions of the Kinsman Transit Co.</i>	375
III. Recap: The Place of Foreseeability in Duty, Breach, and Proximate Cause	385
<i>Quisenberry v. Huntington Ingalls Inc.</i>	385
<i>Kuciemba v. Victory Woodworks, Inc.</i>	398
References/Further Reading	410

CHAPTER 6

**STATUTORY SUPPLEMENTS: NEGLIGENCE PER SE,
IMPLIED RIGHTS OF ACTION, WRONGFUL DEATH
AND RELATED ACTIONS**

	413
I. Negligence Per Se	414
<i>Dalal v. City of New York</i>	414
<i>Bayne v. Todd Shipyards Corp.</i>	415
II. Implied Rights of Action	426
A. Implied Rights of Action Under Federal Statutes	426
<i>Tex. & Pac. Ry. Co. v. Rigsby</i>	426
B. Implied Rights of Action Under State Statutes	431
<i>Lawson v. Halpern-Reiss</i>	431
C. Implied Rights of Action Under the Constitution	441
<i>Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics</i>	441
III. Wrongful Death Acts	449
A. Historical Background	450
B. Lord Campbell's Act and American Statutes	452
<i>Nelson v. Dolan</i>	454
IV. Wrongful Birth, Wrongful Conception, and Wrongful Life	466
<i>Doherty v. Merck & Co., Inc.</i>	467
References/Further Reading	476

CHAPTER 7

DEFENSES

	479
I. Comparative Responsibility: Contributory Negligence and Comparative Fault	480
A. Contributory Negligence	480
B. Comparative Fault in Action	484
<i>United States v. Reliable Transfer Co.</i>	485
<i>Hunt v. Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation & Correction</i>	487
II. Assumption of Risk	497
A. Implied Assumption of Risk	497
<i>Smollett v. Skyting Dev. Corp.</i>	497
B. Express Assumption of Risk and Exculpatory Clauses	508
<i>Jones v. Dressel</i>	508
<i>Dalury v. S-K-I, Ltd.</i>	512
III. Statutes of Limitations and Repose	520
<i>Ranney v. Parawax Co.</i>	521
IV. Immunities and Exemptions from Liability	529
A. Intra-familial and Charitable Immunities	530
B. Sovereign Immunity, Governmental Immunity, and the Public Duty Rule	535
<i>Riley v. United States</i>	535
<i>Riss v. City of New York</i>	542
References/Further Reading	556

CHAPTER 8

DAMAGES AND APPORTIONMENT	559
I. Elements and Availability of Damages	559
A. Compensatory Damages	559
<i>Smith v. Leech Brain & Co. Ltd.</i>	559
<i>Kenton v. Hyatt Hotels Corp.</i>	567
B. Punitive Damages	585
<i>National By-Products, Inc. v. Searcy House Moving Co.</i>	586
<i>Mathias v. Accor Economy Lodging, Inc.</i>	589
II. Vicarious Liability	604
A. Vicarious Liability and Scope of Employment	605
<i>Prodigies Child Care Management, LLC v. Cotton</i>	605
B. Vicarious Liability for Sexual Assault	620
<i>Sherman v. Department of Public Safety</i>	620
III. Joint Liability and Contribution	631
<i>Ravo v. Rogatnick</i>	631
<i>Bencivenga v. J.J.A.M.M., Inc.</i>	638
IV. Indemnification and Liability Insurance	644
<i>Interinsurance Exch. of the Automobile Club v. Flores</i>	644
V. Enforcing Judgments: Getting to Assets	657
A. Judgement-Proof Defendants	657
B. Whose Assets?	657
C. Limits	658
D. Corporate Bankruptcy	659
References/Further Reading	659

**PART III: BATTERY, ASSAULT, FALSE IMPRISONMENT,
AND INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**

665

CHAPTER 9

BATTERY, ASSAULT, AND FALSE IMPRISONMENT	667
I. Introduction	667
II. Battery and Assault: Elements	668
A. Battery	669
<i>Cecarelli v. Maher</i>	670
<i>Paul v. Holbrook</i>	671
<i>Vosburg v. Putney</i>	680
<i>Cole v. Hibberd</i>	683
<i>Wagner v. State</i>	690
B. Assault	705
<i>Beach v. Hancock</i>	706
<i>Brooker v. Silverthorne</i>	707
<i>Vetter v. Morgan</i>	710
C. Intent Revisited: Transferred Intent	716
<i>In re White</i>	716

III. Standard Defenses to Battery and Assault	722
A. Consent	723
<i>Koffman v. Garnett</i>	723
B. Self-Defense and Defense of Others	733
<i>Haeussler v. De Loretto</i>	733
C. Defense and Recapture of Property	738
<i>Katko v. Briney</i>	738
IV. False Imprisonment	744
A. Elements	744
<i>Fojtik v. Charter Med. Corp.</i>	744
B. Defenses Available in Cases of Detention and Arrest	753
<i>Grant v. Stop-N-Go Market of Texas, Inc.</i>	753
<i>Irvin v. City of Shaker Heights</i>	759
References/Further Reading	773

CHAPTER 10

INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS	777
I. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress	777
A. The Emergence of IIED	777
B. Elements	781
<i>Dickens v. Puryear</i>	781
<i>Littlefield v. McGuffey</i>	787
<i>Hunt v. State</i>	791
C. IIED and Employment Discrimination	807
II. Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress	812
A. From “No Injury” to the “Zone of Danger”	814
<i>Wyman v. Leavitt</i>	814
<i>Robb v. Pennsylvania R.R. Co.</i>	815
<i>Consolidated Rail Corp. v. Gottshall</i>	818
B. Special Relationships, Undertakings to Be Vigilant of Another’s Emotional Well-Being, and Other Direct NIED Claims	833
<i>Beul v. ASSE Int’l, Inc.</i>	834
C. Bystander NIED	845
<i>Dillon v. Legg</i>	845
References/Further Reading	859

PART IV: LIABILITY WITHOUT FAULT AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY

861

CHAPTER 11

PROPERTY TORTS AND ABNORMALLY DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES	863
I. Introduction	863
<i>Brown v. Kendall</i>	865
<i>N.Y. Central R.R. Co. v. White</i>	873
II. Property Torts	882
A. Trespass to Land: Prima Facie Case	882

<i>Burns Philp Food, Inc. v. Cavalea Cont'l Freight, Inc.</i>	882
B. Trespass and Necessity	894
<i>Vincent v. Lake Erie Transp. Co.</i>	896
C. Conversion and Trespass to Personal Property (Chattels)	903
<i>Thyroff v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co.</i>	903
D. Permission (Consent) (With Notes on Media Trespass and Other Defenses)	912
<i>Copeland v. Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.</i>	913
E. Private Nuisance	917
<i>Sturges v. Bridgman</i>	917
<i>Penland v. Redwood Sanitary Sewer Serv. Dist.</i>	922
<i>Boomer v. Atlantic Cement Co.</i>	928
F. Public Nuisance	939
<i>State ex rel. Hunter v. Johnson & Johnson</i>	940
<i>City and County of San Francisco v. Purdue Pharma L.P.</i>	948
III. Abnormally Dangerous Activities	965
<i>Pingaro v. Rossi</i>	965
<i>Rylands v. Fletcher</i>	966
<i>Klein v. Pyrodyne Corp.</i>	969
References/Further Reading	985

CHAPTER 12

PRODUCTS LIABILITY

	989
I. Introduction	989
A. Precursors	991
<i>Escola v. Coca Cola Bottling Co. of Fresno</i>	991
B. The Emergence of Strict Products Liability	1001
<i>Greenman v. Yuba Power Prods., Inc.</i>	1001
II. Basics of a Products Liability Claim	1008
A. What Counts as an Injury?	1009
B. What Is a “Product”?	1010
C. Who or What Is a “Seller”?	1012
D. The Key to Products Liability: Defect	1016
<i>Gower v. Savage Arms, Inc.</i>	1018
III. Design Defect	1025
A. The Risk-Utility Test: Basic Version	1025
<i>Chow v. Reckitt & Colman, Inc.</i>	1026
B. The Contest Between the Consumer Expectations Test and the Risk-Utility Test	1034
<i>Wilson Sporting Goods Co. v. Hickox</i>	1038
<i>Genie Industries, Inc. v. Matak</i>	1045
IV. Failure to Warn or Instruct	1066
A. Which Risks Require Warning?	1067
<i>Anderson v. Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.</i>	1067
B. Proving Actual Causation in a Failure-to-Warn Case	1076
<i>Motus v. Pfizer Inc.</i>	1078
V. Apps and Platforms as Products	1093
<i>In re Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation</i>	1093
References/Further Reading	1112

PART V: TORTS AT THE SUPREME COURT
1117**CHAPTER 13****TORTS AT THE SUPREME COURT**

	1119
I. Introduction	1119
II. Torts and Evidence: Guidelines for Expert Testimony in Personal Injury Cases	1121
<i>Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.</i>	1122
III. Torts and Punishment (and Deterrence): Constitutional Limits on Punitive Damages	1130
<i>BMW of North America, Inc. v. Gore</i>	1131
<i>Philip Morris USA v. Williams</i>	1142
IV. Torts Without Injuries? Unripened Physical Harm and Medical Monitoring Claims	1157
<i>Metro-North Commuter R.R. Co. v. Buckley</i>	1159
V. Tort Law and the Administrative State: Preemption	1171
<i>Wyeth v. Levine</i>	1174
<i>Pliva, Inc. v. Mensing</i>	1194
References/Further Reading	1211
 <i>Appendix: Materials Concerning Walter v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.</i>	 1215
<i>Table of Cases</i>	1261
<i>Index</i>	1279