

# Preface

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE EIGHTH EDITION

The eighth edition of *Tort Law for Paralegals* continues a long tradition of ensuring that the topic of tort law is current and accessible for all readers. As has been true in previous editions, the author has updated the materials to reflect the most recent changes in tort law. The text begins with a general discussion of civil law and then proceeds through the concepts of intentional torts and defenses, followed by an in-depth examination of negligence law spanning several chapters and including all elements of a negligence action, as well as defenses to negligence. From there, the author moves on to a discussion of products liability, business torts, and the impact that insurance coverage has on bringing and defending tort cases. In addition, the author has updated the “Tech Topic” features to reflect the rapidly changing technology in day-to-day legal practice. Also, each chapter has a new feature: a checklist to help readers focus on the solid applications of legal theory.

Further, the author has added even more material in every chapter, as well as including a feature that asks relevant questions about the featured case, while providing answers to these questions in the extensive Instructor’s Manual. The Instructor’s Manual has also been expanded to give instructors even more tools to assist them in their coursework and lecture.

## FEATURES

This eighth edition continues many of the features that have made previous editions so popular. The material attempts to balance theory with practice. It is designed to appeal to various learning styles. Many of the components give the text a solid visual appeal, while also delivering important information about the bases of tort law.

- **Chapter Objectives**

Each chapter begins with clearly stated learning objectives to guide readers in their studies.

- **Chapter Outline**

The chapter outline at a glance in each chapter helps students and instructors anticipate upcoming issues in the materials and to track their progress.

**■ Tort Basics at a Glance**

Scattered throughout each chapter are small synopses of the basics of tort law. Students can see a brief summary of the topic and the critical points to be gleaned from the material.

**■ Definitions**

As each new term is introduced, it is also defined for the student. These contemporaneous definitions help to reinforce the concept under discussion and provide an additional frame of reference for the legal term.

**■ Figures, Tables, and Diagrams**

Each chapter has been extensively updated with new figures, tables, and diagrams to assist students in their understanding of the concepts by presenting them in a visual format.

**■ Practical Advice**

The text provides examples and advice about topics as varied as drafting a complaint to billing for time.

**■ Case Excerpts**

Almost every chapter in the text has been updated with new cases that reflect the most up-to-date changes in tort law. In addition, there are the seminal cases that have established subfields in tort law, such as the famous *Palsgraf* and *MacPherson* cases. Each case also has a series of questions following it to help readers to focus on the important issues. Answers to these questions are found in Appendix G of this book.

**■ Litigation Facts**

The text contains checklists, figures, and tables that allow students to bring the theoretical discussions into a more practical realm by showing how attorneys and paralegals prepare for a wide variety of tort cases.

**■ Skills You Need in the Real World**

This feature helps create a balance between theoretical legal discussions and down-to-earth practicality by showing the reader how various activities in the real world are carried out. Whether investigating a claim, billing an account, or preparing legal documents, this section — which comes at the end of each chapter — helps emphasize the day-to-day activities carried out by paralegals who work in tort law.

**■ Ethics Issues for the Paralegal**

Ethics is a critical concern for attorneys and paralegals, and ethical scenarios and rules are presented throughout the text to help emphasize this point. At the end of each chapter, the author discusses a particular ethics issue in great detail. Examples include how the attorney-client relationship is established to avoiding legal malpractice claims.

**■ Tech Topic**

The author has expanded on the role that technology continues to play in modern legal practice. Each chapter features a discussion of modern technology and

how it continues to change the day-to-day practice of law. This feature has been updated to reflect the accelerating trends in legal practice.

■ **Chapter Summary**

At the conclusion of each chapter, the chapter summary presents a condensed overview of the material covered in the chapter, helping the reader focus on the key points raised.

■ **Websites**

The eighth edition of this book has even more broadly expanded its consideration of the Internet and its impact on the day-to-day practice of law. Each chapter contains websites that direct the reader to online resources that can provide more extensive and more targeted reading on a particular topic, but the chapters have been revised to discuss the impact of the Internet on all areas of tort law.

■ **Key Terms**

Each of the key terms discussed in the body of the chapter is provided to the reader again in a list at the conclusion of the chapter. This allows students to ensure that they have mastered the important concepts discussed throughout the text.

■ **Review Questions**

Extensive review questions are provided to test the student's understanding of the important concepts raised in the chapters and also serve as a way to stimulate in-class discussion of various tort law concepts. Answers to these review questions are provided in Appendix G.

■ **Applying What You Have Learned**

In the author's continuing effort to provide a balance between theory and practice, this section allows students to apply the theoretical concepts from the chapters into specific, real-world problems, and guides students to solve these problems.

■ **Practice Questions in Different Formats**

The text has also been revised to include sections with sample quizzes in several formats that allow students to check their progress in their comprehension of the materials. Answers to all of these questions are provided in Appendix G.

■ **Non-Gender-Specific Language**

In recognition of the changing face of pronoun use and the impact that gender-specific language has on readers, the author has endeavored to avoid the use of gender-specific pronouns whenever possible.

## **INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL**

The author has developed an impressive Instructor's Manual to accompany the text. Recognizing the needs of instructors for multiple resources, the author has provided the following features:

- **Answers to all end-of-chapter questions**

- **Test bank**

The test bank includes a variety of test questions, including:

- Essay questions (7 per chapter)
- Short answer (15 per chapter)
- Multiple choice (30 per chapter)
- True–false (15 per chapter)

- **Microsoft PowerPoint slides for each chapter**

- **Additional cases**

The author has provided additional cases in the Instructor’s Manual as well, to help supplement the material in each chapter. Each case comes with a set of questions and answers to assist the instructor.