Contents



Preface to the Fifth Edition	
Preface to the First Edition	xxi
Acknowledgments	xxv
Notes on the Text	xxvii
PART I: OVERVIEW	
PARI I: OVERVIEW	1
CHAPTER 1	
AN INTRODUCTION TO TORTS	3
I. What Is a Tort?	3
II. An Example of a Tort Suit	5
Walter v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	6
A. Common Law and Statute	11
B. Responsibilities in Tort	16
C. The Role of Lawyers	18
D. Proceeding Through Court	22
III. Tort Law in Context	31
A. Tort Contrasted with Other Areas of Law	31
B. The Politics of Tort Law	38
C. Some Statistics Concerning the Tort System	40
IV. Using This Book	43
References/Further Reading	44
PART II: NEGLIGENCE: LIABILITY FOR PHYSICAL HARMS	45
TART II. NEGLIGENCE, LIABILITI FOR FITTSICAL HARWIS	47
CHAPTER 2	
THE DUTY ELEMENT	49
I. Negligence: A Brief Overview	49
A. Elements of the Prima Facie Case	49
B. The Injury Element	50
C. Focusing on Physical Harms	52

xii Contents

II. The Duty Element and the General Duty of Reasonable Care	53
A. Easy Cases: The Unqualified Duty to Conduct Oneself	
with Reasonable Care for the Person and Property of Others	53
B. A Sampling of Easy Duty Cases Drawn from English Law	54
C. The Evolution of Duty Rules	57
MacPherson v. Buick Motor Co.	62
Mussivand v. David	69
III. Qualified Duties of Care	76
A. Affirmative Duties to Rescue and Protect	77
Osterlind v. Hill	79
Baker v. Fenneman & Brown Properties, LLC	80
Tarasoff v. The Regents of the University of California	94
B. Premises Liability	110
Leffler v. Sharp	110
Demag v. Better Power Equip., Inc.	115
C. Pure Economic Loss	129
Aikens v. Debow	129
References/Further Reading	145
CHAPTER 3	
THE BREACH ELEMENT	149
I. Duty, Breach, and the Meaning of "Negligence"	149
Martin v. Evans	150
Myers v. Heritage Enters., Inc.	155
Jones v. Port Authority of Allegheny County	160
Campbell v. Kovich	161
Adams v. Bullock	162
II. Defining the Person of Ordinary Prudence	171
Vaughan v. Menlove	171
Dakter v. Cavallino	173
Appelhans v. McFall	184
III. Industry and Professional Custom	195
The T.J. Hooper	195
Johnson v. Riverdale Anesthesia Associates	198
Condra v. Atlanta Orthopaedic Group	201
Largey v. Rothman	205
IV. Reasonableness, Balancing, and Cost-Benefit Analysis	217
United States v. Carroll Towing Co.	217
Rhode Island Hosp. Trust Nat'l Bank v. Zapata Corp.	222
V. Proving Breach: Res Ipsa Loquitur	231
Byrne v. Boadle	232
Kambat v. St. Francis Hosp.	234
References/Further Reading	242

Contents xiii

CHAPTER 4	
THE CAUSATION ELEMENT	245
I. Key Terms and Concepts	245
A. Actual and Proximate Cause	245
B. Actual Cause, the Jury, the But-For Test, and "Substantial Factor"	247
C. Two Meanings of "Caused"	248
D. "A" Cause, Not "The" Cause	249
II. Proving Actual Causation Under the Preponderance Standard	250
Muckler v. Buchl	250
Butts v. Weisz	254
Cooper v. Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, Inc.	259
Falcon v. Memorial Hospital	284
III. Multiple Necessary and Multiple Sufficient Causes	292
McDonald v. Robinson	292
Ford Motor Co. v. Boomer	295
IV. Causation and Tortfeasor Identification A. Alternative Causation	314 314
Summers v. Tice	314
B. Market Share Liability	319
Sindell v. Abbott Labs.	319
References/Further Reading	331
ALIGNING THE ELEMENTS: PROXIMATE CAUSE AND PALSGRAF	335
I. Proximate Cause	336
A. What Makes a Cause "Proximate" (Not "Remote")?	336
Union Pump Co. v. Allbritton	337
Jolley v. Sutton London Borough Council	346
B. Intervening Wrongdoing: Superseding Cause as a Special Case of Proximate Cause	357
Port Authority of New York & New Jersey v. Arcadian Corp.	362
II. The Relational Aspect of Breach of Duty: Palsgraf	382
Palsgraf v. Long Island Railroad Co.	382
Petitions of the Kinsman Transit Co.	396
III. Recap: The Place of Foreseeability in Duty, Breach, and Proximate Cause	407
Quisenberry v. Huntington Ingalls Inc.	407
References/Further Reading	420
CHAPTER 6 STATUTORY SUPPLEMENTS: NEGLIGENCE PER SE, IMPLIED RIGHTS OF ACTION, WRONGFUL DEATH	
AND RELATED ACTIONS	423
I. Negligence Per Se	424
Dalal v. City of New York	424
Bayne v. Todd Shipyards Corp.	425
Victor v. Hedges	428

xiv Contents

II. Implied Rights of Action	440
A. Implied Rights of Action Under Federal Statutes	440
Tex. & Pac. Ry. Co. v. Rigsby	440
B. Implied Rights of Action Under State Statutes	446
Lawson v. Halpern-Reiss	446
Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotic	s 456
III. Wrongful Death Acts	465
A. Historical Background	465
B. Lord Campbell's Act and American Statutes	467
Nelson v. Dolan	470
IV. Wrongful Birth, Wrongful Conception, and Wrongful Life	481
Doherty v. Merck & Co., Inc.	482
References/Further Reading	490
CHAPTER 7	
DEFENSES	493
I. Contributory Negligence and Comparative Responsibility	494
A. Contributory Negligence	494
B. Comparative Fault in Action	498
United States v. Reliable Transfer Co.	499
Hunt v. Ohio Dept. of Rehabilitation & Correction	501
II. Assumption of Risk	510
A. Implied Assumption of Risk	511
Smollett v. Skayting Dev. Corp.	511
B. Express Assumption of Risk and Exculpatory Clauses	521
Jones v. Dressel	521
Dalury v. S-K-I, Ltd.	526
III. Statutes of Limitations and Repose	534
Ranney v. Parawax Co.	535
IV. Immunities and Exemptions from Liability	542
A. Intra-familial and Charitable Immunities	543
B. Sovereign Immunity	547
Riley v. United States	547
C. Liability Exemptions: No-Duty Rules for Local Government	554
and Private Entities Riss v. City of New York	554 554
Strauss v. Belle Realty Co.	565
References/Further Reading	572
·	312
CHAPTER 8	
DAMAGES AND APPORTIONMENT	575
I. Elements and Availability of Damages	575
A. Compensatory Damages	575
Smith v. Leech Brain & Co. Ltd.	575
Kenton v. Hyatt Hotels Corp.	583

Contents xv

B. Punitive Damages	599
National By-Products, Inc. v. Searcy House Moving Co.	600
Mathias v. Accor Economy Lodging, Inc.	604
II. Vicarious Liability	619
Taber v. Maine	619
III. Joint Liability and Contribution	631
Ravo v. Rogatnick	631
Bencivenga v. J.J.A.M.M., Inc.	638
IV. Indemnification and Liability Insurance	644
Interinsurance Exch. of the Automobile Club v. Flores	644
V. Enforcing Judgments: Getting to Assets	657
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
Cecarelli v. Maher	670
Paul v. Holbrook	671
Vosburg v. Putney	680
Cole v. Hibberd	683
Wagner v. State	690
B. Assault	705
Beach v. Hancock	703 706
Brooker v. Silverthorne	700
Vetter v. Morgan	707
C. Intent Revisited: Transferred Intent	710
In re White	715
III. Standard Defenses to Battery and Assault	713
A. Consent	721
Koffman v. Garnett	723
B. Self-Defense and Defense of Others	732
Haeussler v. De Loretto	732
	737
C. Defense and Recapture of Property Katko v. Briney	737
IV. False Imprisonment	737
A. Elements	744
Fojtik v. Charter Med. Corp.	744
B. Defenses Available in Cases of Detention and Arrest	
	752 753
Grant v. Stop-N-Go Market of Texas, Inc.	755 759
Irvin v. City of Shaker Heights References/Further Reading	739
NCICICIOCO/TUI UICI NCAUIIIX	113

xvi Contents

CHAPTER 10	
INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS	775
I. Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress	775
A. The Emergence of IIED	775
B. Elements	778
Dickens v. Puryear	778
Littlefield v. McGuffey	785
Hunt v. State	789
C. IIED and Employment Discrimination	804
II. Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress	810
A. From "No Injury" to the "Zone of Danger"	811
Wyman v. Leavitt	811
Robb v. Pennsylvania R.R. Co.	812
Consolidated Rail Corp. v. Gottshall B. Special Relationships and Undertakings to Be Vigilant	815
of Another's Emotional Well-Being	830
Beul v. ASSE Int'l, Inc.	832
C. Bystander NIED	841
Waube v. Warrington	841
Dillon v. Legg	844
Thing v. La Chusa	851
References/Further Reading	865
PART IV LIABILITY WITHOUT FAULT AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY	867
CHAPTER 11	
PROPERTY TORTS AND ABNORMALLY DANGEROUS	
ACTIVITIES	869
I. Introduction	869
Brown v. Kendall	871
N.Y. Central R.R. Co. v. White	878
II. Property Torts	887
A. Trespass to Land: Prima Facie Case	887
Burns Philp Food, Inc. v. Cavalea Cont'l Freight, Inc.	887
B. Trespass and Necessity	899
Vincent v. Lake Erie Transp. Co.	901
C. Conversion and Trespass to Personal Property (Chattels)	907
Thyroff v. Nationwide Mut. Ins. Co.	908
D. Permission (Consent) (With Notes on Media Trespass	
and Other Defenses)	917
Copeland v. Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc.	917
E. Nuisance: Private and Public	921
Sturges v. Bridgman Penland v. Redwood Sanitary Sewer Serv. Dist.	921 930
i enunu v. Reuwoou sunuu y sewei selv. Dist.	7.50

Contents xvii

Boomer v. Atlantic Cement Co.	936
Benetatos v. City of Los Angeles	943
III. Abnormally Dangerous Activities	956
Pingaro v. Rossi	956
Rylands v. Fletcher	957
Klein v. Pyrodyne Corp.	959
References/Further Reading	975
CHAPTER 12	
PRODUCTS LIABILITY	979
I. Introduction	979
A. Precursors	981
Escola v. Coca Cola Bottling Co. of Fresno	981
B. The Emergence of Strict Products Liability	991
Greenman v. Yuba Power Prods., Inc.	991
II. Basics of a Products Liability Claim	999
A. What Counts as an Injury?	999
B. What Is a "Product"?	1000
C. Who or What Is a "Seller"?	1001
D. The Key to Products Liability: Defect	1005
Gower v. Savage Arms, Inc.	1007
III. Design Defect	1015
A. The Risk-Utility Test	1016
Chow v. Reckitt & Colman, Inc.	1016
B. The Contest Between the Consumer Expectations Test	
and the Risk-Utility Test	1024
Wilson Sporting Goods Co. v. Hickox	1028
Genie Industries, Inc. v. Matak	1035
C. Standards of Defectiveness for Prescription Drugs	1055
Freeman v. Hoffman-La Roche, Inc.	1057
IV. Failure to Warn or Instruct	1070
A. Which Risks Require Warning?	1071
Anderson v. Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.	1071
B. Proving Actual Causation in a Failure-to-Warn Case	1080
Motus v. Pfizer Inc.	1083
References/Further Reading	1095
PART V: TORTS AT THE SUPREME COURT	1101
CHAPTER 13	
TORTS AT THE SUPREME COURT	1103
I. Introduction	1103
II. Torts and Evidence: Guidelines for Expert Testimony	, , ,
in Personal Injury Cases	1105
Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.	1106

xviii Contents

III. Torts and Punishment (and Deterrence):	
Constitutional Limits on Punitive Damages	1114
BMW of North America, Inc. v. Gore	1115
Philip Morris USA v. Williams	1125
IV. Torts Without Injuries? Unripened Physical Harm	
and Medical Monitoring Claims	1139
Metro-North Commuter R.R. Co. v. Buckley	1142
V. Tort Law and the Administrative State: Preemption	1154
Wyeth v. Levine	1158
Pliva, Inc. v. Mensing	1177
References/Further Reading	1195
Appendix: Materials Concerning Walter v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	1197
Table of Cases	1243
Index	1261