

Preface

INTRODUCTION TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

The seventh 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. This examination spans several chapters and includes all elements of a negligence action, as well as defenses to negligence. From there, the author moves on to a discussion of product liability, business torts, and an explanation of the impact that insurance coverage has on bringing and defending tort cases. Because this book was rewritten during the global pandemic, many of the issues that the COVID-19 virus have raised in tort law also are examined.

In addition, 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.

FEATURES

This seventh 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 author has added a new feature, the chapter outline at a glance to help students and instructors anticipate upcoming issues in the materials and to help track 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 also 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. The only exceptions are the seminal cases that establish sub-fields in tort law, such as the famous *Palsgraf*, *MacPherson* and *Tarasoff* cases, among others. 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 the new student appendix.

■ **Litigation Facts**

The text also 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 ethical issue in great detail. Examples include how the attorney-client relationship is established to avoiding legal malpractice claims.

■ **Tech Topic**

The author has also 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.

■ COVID-19 Concerns

Given the overall impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the world, it is little wonder that it would also have had a continuing impact on the topic of tort law. Each chapter contains a separate section detailing the chapter subject and how it has been impacted by the pandemic.

■ 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 seventh 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 has 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.

■ Forms and Court Documents

Among the many items provided in the end-of-chapter materials are excerpts from actual court documents. These contain examples of pleadings that range from complaints and answers to interrogatories and motions. This section allows the reader to see how the various legal topics discussed in the chapter are actually put into place by attorneys and paralegals as they pursue (or defend) a civil tort case.

■ Key Terms

Each of the key terms discussed in the body of the chapter is excerpted and provided to the reader again 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 the new student appendix.

■ 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.

■ Sample Quizzes in Different Formats

The text has also been revised to include new 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 the student appendix.

■ **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 (5 per chapter)
- Short answer (10 per chapter)
- Multiple choice (25 per chapter)
- True-false (10 per chapter)

■ **PowerPoint slides for each chapter**

■ **Additional cases**

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