

## LAW CATEGORIES AND SPECIFIC AREAS

- ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

- **Admiralty Law:** involves cases regarding accidents, licensing on waterways and inlets
- **Contest of Election:** When a candidate feels an election was not properly administered
- **Environmental:** Involves issues pertaining to enforcement activities, controlling air pollution, water pollution, hazardous waste disposal, and other threats to the environment, as well as oil and gas rights
- **Military Law:** Includes any military justice problems involving military personnel. Not civil legal problems (should be under appropriate civil category -- family law, wills, consumer, etc.). Persons who wish to upgrade discharges or have internal disciplinary problems should be referred to a Military Law attorney. Procedural, not benefit related.
- **Municipal/Townships/Government:** Issues involving anything concerning the law of the agencies and operation of the cities, townships, and state.
- **OSHA:** Issues involving workplace safety regulations
- **Public Utilities:** Issues concerning electricity, gas, phone: consumer problems

- BENEFITS

- **ERISA:** Issues concerning health insurance problems and benefits of employees, past and current; also some COBRA issues
- **Pensions:** See Retirement Fund
- **Retirement:** Issues involving I.R.A.'s, retirement savings plans, benefits, and pension plans
- **Social Security:** Issues regarding establishing eligibility because of a disability due to a physical or mental condition
- **Unemployment Compensation:** Issues dealing with unemployment compensation
- **Veteran's Benefit:** Issues concerning the benefits of veterans and the VA
- **Worker's Compensation:** Job related injuries

- BUSINESS LAW

- **Antitrust:** Issues regarding the fraud of stocks and bonds, including unlawful restraints of trade and monopolies
- **Breach of Contracts:** Issues concerning the defaulting of one party or another concerning contracts and other business

transactions; could be business, landlord/tenant, consumer or labor related.

- **Buy/Sell Agreements:** Agreement in business that if one partner dies, the remaining partners will buy his share or see to its disposal.
  - **Collections/Creditor:** Issues concerning a person to whom money is owed.
  - **Collections/Debtor:** Issues concerning a person that owes money.
  - **Computer Law:** Issues concerning the Internet.
  - **Construction:** Issues concerning building and remodeling.
  - **Contract:** An agreement made between two or more parties
  - **Corporate/Partnership:** Issues concerning the formation and function of corporations/partnerships.
  - **Entertainment Law:** Usually applicable to artists, entertainers, etc. having contractual difficulties or simply needing to have a contract drafted.
  - **Franchising/License:** Issues concerning the franchising and/or licensing to obtain a business.
  - **Fraud:** Any kind of trickery used by one person to cheat another.
  - **International:** Public International Law-the customary law that applies to the relationships and interactions between countries. Private International Law-the set of principles that determines which country's courts should hear a dispute and which country's laws should apply to each situation.
  - **Liquor License:** Licensing for the handling of alcoholic beverages and the sale of such.
  - **Non-Profit Corporations:** An incorporated organization chartered for other than profit-making activities.
  - **Securities:** Issues dealing with stocks, bonds, and certificates.
  - **Small Business:** Issues dealing with formation, selling, and all aspects of legal issues related to a small business.
  - **Transportation:** Issues concerning commercial transportation, bus, plane, and train. Laws pertaining to domestic commerce as well as general transportation procedures.
  - **Unfair Competition:** Issues concerning working and developing products for one company and going to work for another company. Used in employment contracts.
- **CIVIL RIGHTS**
    - **Americans with Disabilities Act:** Includes cases where discrimination against the handicapped has occurred.
    - **Discrimination of Age/Race/Sex/Religion:** When there is a distinction in treatment based on unfair bias, including racial, sexual, age, ethnic background, national origin, handicap, and /or sexual preference. For issues concerning discrimination, not employment or labor law.

- **Sexual Harassment:** Issues of sexual harassment that are not work related.
- **AIDS and Gay Issues:** Issues concerning the rights of gays, problems with AIDS, and related issues.
- **CONSUMER LAW**
  - **Auto:** Issues concerning problems with autos, buying, selling, repairs, leasing, anything dealing with the consumer side of autos and the consumer's rights.
  - **Collections:** Consumer issues dealing with the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, dealing with disputing a debt as well as preventing harassment from creditors
  - **Construction:** Issues concerning building and remodeling (from builder, see Business Law)
  - **Contests/Gaming:** Issues concerning games of chance and contests that misrepresent themselves to the public.
  - **Home:** Issues concerning home repairs.
  - **Lemon Law:** Issues concerning NEW cars that have continuous problems and that are continuously in for repairs. This also can pertain to older cars that are still under warranty, where the problems started as a new car.
  - **Retail:** Issues concerning the consumer and the purchasing of products, services, and /or merchandise that has something wrong with it.
  - **Warranties:** Issues that pertain to warranties not being honored, expressed, or implied.
- **CRIMINAL LAW**

This category is applicable for only criminal defense. It is important to determine which court the case is being heard in and make the appropriate referral. If the site visitor wants to prosecute, have them call the district attorney in their county.

  - **Appeals:** Issues pertaining to criminal issues, appealing to a higher court for the purpose of obtaining a review of a lower court decision and reversal of that judgment or granting a new trial.
  - **Domestic Abuse:** Issues concerning domestic violence.
  - **DUI:** Issues involving driving under the influence of alcohol.
  - **DUS:** Issues involving driving under suspension.
  - **Expungement:** To completely remove a criminal record.
  - **Federal:** Issues concerning Federal criminal proceedings.
  - **Felonies:** Issues concerning high crimes, not minor offenses; homicide, mayhem, arson, rape, robbery, burglary, and larceny.
  - **Homicide:** Issues pertaining to murder or manslaughter
  - **Juvenile:** Criminal issues pertaining to anyone under the age of 18.
  - **Misdemeanors:** Less serious offenses such as shoplifting, etc.
  - **Parole/Pardon/Probation:** Post conviction issues.

- **Traffic:** Issues involving traffic tickets, license suspension, no insurance, etc.
- **ELDER LAW**
  - **Assets:** Issues dealing with the elderly and their moneyed belongings.
  - **Medicaid/Medicare:** Issues dealing with problems concerning health care.
  - **Nursing Home:** Issues concerning care of patients, payments, patient's rights, and abuse.
- **EMPLOYMENT LAW**
  - **Civil Service:** Issues concerning government employees, not military, but employed by a government agency.
  - **Discrimination:** Employee-issues concerning unfair treatment of parties who are similarly situated (the employee is directly comparable in all material respects).
  - **Discrimination:** Employer-issues wherein the employer has been charged with unfair treatment of parties and needs to be defended.
  - **Labor Law:** Issues relating to employment that doesn't pertain to discrimination. Workplace problems and disputes. Often refers to unions.
  - **Non-Compete:** Issues about working in a special field and leaving to be employed by a competitor in the same field.
  - **Sexual Harassment:** Issues that refer to any policy or practice pursuant to which employees are subject to physical or verbal harassment by their superiors or are denied employment or promotion on basis of their gender.
  - **Union:** Issues concerning union labor problems or problems of non-representation by a union.
  - **Wage/hour:** Issues concerning wages, non-payment, wrong hourly wage and anything concerning problems of this type.
  - **Wrongful Termination/Discharge:** Issues involving the termination from employment.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL/OSHA LAW**  
Issues pertaining to enforcement activities, controlling air pollution, water pollution, hazardous waste disposal, and other threats to the environment.
- **FAMILY & JUVENILE LAW**
  - **Custody:** Issues concerning care and keeping of a child
  - **Dependent/Neglect/Abuse:** Issues concerning children where there is suspicion of neglect, sexual abuse, drug abuse, and any other issues concerning children and their care.
  - **Annulment:** Issues concerning the making void of a marriage
  - **Dissolution:** Issues concerning dissolving of a marriage, everyone agrees, also can be a no fault divorce

- **Divorce:** Issues concerning the dissolving of a marriage, often contested.
  - **Grandparents Rights:** Issues concerning the rights of grandparents to see and visit grandchildren
  - **Military Divorce:** Issues concerning the divorce of someone in the service, in country or outside of the U.S.
  - **Paternity:** Issues concerning who is the biological father
  - **Post Divorce:** Issues dealing with problems that arise from a divorce; or issues not complied with or completed from a divorce
  - **Pre-Marital Agreement:** Agreement entered into and signed by both parties before marriage
  - **Special Education:** Issues concerning educational problems not handled under regular education or Americans with Disabilities Act
  - **Spousal Support:** Issues concerning alimony or support paid to an ex-spouse
  - **Support:** Issues concerning the monies paid for child support
  - **Visitation:** Issues concerning the visiting with one's child or not being allowed to do so
- **FINANCIAL LAW**
    - **Bankruptcy Law:** Settling matters which arise from an inability of a debtor to pay his debts as they become due. It is important to determine whether the client wants to file personal or business bankruptcy.
    - **Bankruptcy-Chapter 7:** Court allows the person to keep some personal property and grants a discharge which frees the person from listed debts.
    - **Bankruptcy-Chapter 11:** A reorganization of an insolvent corporation under the federal bankruptcy laws, supervised by a federal bankruptcy court, in which ownership is transferred to a new corporation made up of old owners and creditors. In some cases the business can continue to operate during the process. Refers only to business bankruptcy, not individual bankruptcy.
    - **Bankruptcy-Chapter 13:** A procedure, under which an individual or small business in financial trouble is allowed to pay off only a proportion of its debts, gets extra time to pay them, or both.
    - **Collections-Business:** Collecting outstanding debts from individuals or other businesses. Advice on collecting a debt or defending yourself against a collection.
    - **Collection Harassment:** Issues concerning the constant harassment of a creditor to collect on a debt, to the point of overstepping the regulations on collections tactics.
    - **Commercial Loans:** A loan made for business purposes.
    - **Financial Planning:** Issues concerning the planning for a financial future, including the protection of assets.

- **Garnishment:** Issues concerning the garnishing of wages through the court ordered repayment on a debt at the place of debtor's employment.
  - **International Trusts:** Trusts written in other countries.
  - **Small Claims:** Issues that can be handled in small claims court, for an amount under \$3,000. No attorney is needed.
  - **Stocks, Bonds, and Securities:** Issues involving investments.
  - **Tax Planning:** Issues concerning the owing or payment of taxes including problems with the filing of taxes or collecting of refunds
- **IMMIGRATION LAW** Cases involving the movement of persons from another country into the United States for the purpose of permanently residing in the United States.
    - **Amnesty:** The pardoning of an immigrant.
    - **Deportation:** The sending of an immigrant back to their country.
    - **Naturalization:** The becoming of a citizen of the USA.
    - **Visa Petition:** The granting of permission to an immigrant to stay, visit, or work in a country.
- **INSURANCE LAW**
    - **Accident/Property:** Issues concerning accidents (auto, home)
    - **Home/Fire/Property:** Issues concerning insurance problems where the home is damaged or fire damage and/or property damage occurs and the insurance company refuses to take care of problems or compensate for the problems.
    - **Life/Benefits:** Issues concerning life insurance or benefits. This is the place where long or short-term disability falls under the benefits of a company's insurance plan to cover a person on leave.
    - **Managed Care:** Issues concerning the care of someone who has continued illness or an illness where there is no hope of improvement, or in referring to the type of insurance plan such as PPO, HMO, etc.
    - **Medical Payments/Health:** Issues where the insurance refuses in paying a bill or where a patient has a dispute about a medical payment.
    - **Subrogation:** The substitution of one person for another in claiming a lawful right or debt. For example, when an insurance company pays its policyholder for damage to his or her car, the insurance company becomes subrogated to (gets the right to sue on or collect) any claim for the same damage that the policyholder has against the person who hit the car.
- **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW** A body of law protecting ideas, designs, writings, and art work. This includes copyrights, licensing, or patents.
    - **Copyrights:** The right to control the copying, distributing, performing, displaying, and adapting of works.

- **Patents:** Invention or discovery with exclusive rights. The owner of the patent may control the manufacture and sale of something that person has discovered or invented.
  - **Patent Infringement:** Stealing of someone's ideas protected by a patent and trying to sell it as one's own.
  - **Trademark:** Any mark, word, letter, number, design, picture, or a combination that is used by a company to identify the products it makes or sells. Also known as service marks.
- **LITIGATION** Issues concerning controversy in a court. A judicial contest through which legal rights are sought to be determined and enforced. Civil actions requiring a trial lawyer.
- **PROBATE LAW:**
    - **Adoption**-Issues concerning a parent/child relationship, not blood-related
    - **Change of Name**-The changing of one's name from one to another
    - **Estate Planning**-Issues concerning what to do with assets and how to plan for the future.
    - **Guardianship**-Issues concerning care management and managing the affairs of someone either not competent or not of age to take care of themselves. This includes the elderly, children, and the mentally retarded.
    - **Living Will**-Issues concerning your authorization of the removal of life support system.
    - **Mental**-Issues concerning someone with mental health problems.
    - **Power of Attorney (POA)**- A document authorizing a person to act as attorney in fact for the person signing the document.
    - **Power of Attorney (Medical)** A document authorizing a person to act as attorney in fact regarding medical situations only.
    - **Probate Estate**- Issues concerning the personal belongings and monies of a deceased person, either through a will or court distribution.
    - **Simple Will**-The general making of a will, stating where and to whom possessions of the deceased are to be given.
    - **Trusts**-The planning of how to protect assets for the benefit of certain other persons or entities.
    - **Will Contest**-Issues concerning the disagreeing with the distribution of assets or the persons to whom things are left.
- **REAL ESTATE LAW**
    - **Boundary Dispute**- The disagreeing of boundary lines or property ownership.
    - **Condo/subdivision**- Issues concerning condominiums and subdivisions, the laws or by-laws, rules and regulations. Restrictions and zoning laws pertaining to the area.

- **Easement**-A right created by an express or implied agreement, to make lawful and beneficial use of the land of another.
  - **Eminent Domain**-The inherent right of the state to take private property for public use, without owner's consent. Compensation must be paid to owner.
  - **Evictions**-Issues concerning the landlord's right to evict a tenant from a property, issued from the court.
  - **Foreclosures**-Banks right to a property if payment has not been met.
  - **Land Contracts**-A non-standard procedure for the purchasing of a property, including rent-to-own.
  - **Landlord/Tenant**-Issues regarding renting or leasing of property.
  - **Mechanic's Lien**-A worker's legal claim to hold property (such as a car) until repair charges are paid or to file formal papers securing a right to property (such as a car or a house) until charges for work done are paid.
  - **Purchase/Sale**- The buying and selling of property, including purchase agreements, escrow instructions, closings, sales, deeds, notes, and leases.
  - **Zoning**-Issues concerning the zoning of a property or problems in changing the zoning.
- **TORT/NEGLIGENCE**
    - **Animal Cases**-Issues dealing with animal bites.
    - **Asbestos/Chemicals**-Injuries resulting from asbestos or chemicals.
    - **Assault/Battery**-ASSAULT-an intentional threat, show of force or movement that could reasonably make a person feel in danger of physical attack or harmful physical attack. BATTERY-an intentional, uncontested to, physical contact by one person with another person.
    - **Aviation Accidents/FAA**-Laws pertaining to air traffic, pilot licenses, and commercial carriers.
    - **Black Lung**-Issues involving coal miners with black lung.
    - **Class Action**-Suits involving multiple plaintiffs (large scale issue)
    - **Dental Malpractice**-Issues concerning dental work performed.
    - **False Arrest**-Issues concerning being arrested for something that is not true.
    - **Harassment**-Issues concerning the constant tormenting of a person.
    - **Invasion of privacy**-Publicizing someone's private affairs that are of no legitimate public concern; using a person for publicity without permission; eavesdropping; or violation of the right to be left alone.
    - **Legal Malpractice**-Issues concerning the negligence or improper advice or service given by an attorney or legal professional in which the client was harmed or injured.
    - **Libel/Slander**- LIBEL-false written statements that injures a person's reputation, business, or property rights. SLANDER-The speaking of false words that injures another person's reputation, business, or property rights.



- **Medical Malpractice-** Professional misconduct or unreasonable lack of skill. This usually applies to bad, incomplete, or unfaithful work done by a doctor. Issues concerning the wrong doings of a doctor in the care of a patient, or the neglect of care.
- **Negligence-** The failure to exercise a reasonable amount of care in a situation that causes harm to someone or something.
- **Personal Injury/Defendant-** Person-the defendant-being sued. Any harm done to a person's rights except for property rights. Describes negligence and other tort actions brought to get compensation for bodily and other harm done.
- **Personal Injury/Plaintiff-** Person that is doing the suing. Any harm done to a person's rights, except for property rights. Describes negligence and other tort actions brought to get compensation for bodily and other harm done.
- **Personal Property-** Issues having anything to do with personal belongings or movable property.
- **Police Brutality-**Injuries resulting from physical abuse by the police.
- **Premises Liability-**Issues concerning buildings and the land surrounding.
- **Product Liability-**The responsibility of manufacturers (and sometimes sellers) of goods to pay for harm to purchasers (and sometimes other users or even bystanders) caused by a defective product.
- **Property Damage/Defendant-**Issues concerning the defendant in a property damage issue.
- **Property Damage/Plaintiff-**Issues concerning having property damage; person filing suit.
- **Psychiatric Malpractice-**Issues concerning a professional's improper or immoral conduct in performing his duties, either intentionally or through carelessness or ignorance.
- **Tobacco Issues-**Issues concerning the use of tobacco products.
- **Wrongful Death-**Issues concerning the death of a person, through negligence.

- **VICTIMS OF CRIME**

Victims of violent crimes; issues concerning the filling out of this form for reimbursement from the state in order to receive compensation. Client usually has the paperwork for the attorney to fill out.