

HARMON SIEFF

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1. More Pig Law

Californians adopted a law to prevent animal cruelty by prohibiting the sale of "confined animals" within the state. Out-of-state pork producers claimed the law was unconstitutional because it interfered with interstate commerce and improperly regulated out-of-state conduct, but they lost their case and the law was upheld.

2. Lending Cars

A vehicle owner must inquire into a prospective driver's license status before allowing the driver to operate the owner's vehicle. Where a contractor lacked a license and caused damage by driving negligently using the owner's vehicle, the owner could be liable for negligent entrustment.

3. Pepper Law

A sauce manufacturer bought all the peppers a farmer could supply for 28 years, but secretly began acquiring its own farmland and eventually canceled the oral arrangement. The farmer sued for fraudulent concealment of the intention to stop buying and won a large judgment based on the long-standing custom, trust, and practice between the parties.

4. School Closures

Because there is no constitutional right to a public education, a state can control reopening public, but not private, schools during an epidemic because parents are free to choose the educational forum of their children.

5. Lemon Law

Warranties from used car sellers do not obligate manufacturers.

6. Fine Print

A contract term requiring arbitration of disputes was unenforceable because it was hidden on the reverse of a money order in virtually illegible tiny print.

7. Gun Licenses

Hawaii requires a license to carry firearms openly, but issues permits only when there is "urgency or need". An application which failed to demonstrate such "urgency" was properly denied.

8. Current Cases

This month our office is continuing to represent a co-shareholder transferring his shares, professionals selling their practices, parties to a boundary dispute, and a property owner with a contract claim; establishing a new limited liability real estate company; negotiating a commercial office lease; and defending a Superior Court lawsuit against a real estate corporation.

This practice serves as a "lawyer of first resort", or "primary care attorney," advocating for small businesses and individuals with transactions and disputes, including accident victims by referral only. We specialize in personalized client service. If we can be of any assistance with your legal issues, consider contacting us as soon as a question is identified. Your recent referrals have been greatly appreciated.

Remember: Preventative lawyering is the most effective kind.

Sincerely,



HARMON SIEFF

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