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1. Freedom of Religion

A state's refusal to contract with a religious foster care agency unless the agency would certify same-sex couples as eligible parents, violated the free exercise of religion clause of the constitution.

2. Independent Contractors

Workers employed by a delivery and installation company via a retail store are not employees of the store because the store had no control over their work or right to terminate them.

3. Real Estate

A transfer deed of property owned by a married couple was judicially canceled because the wife did not sign it.

4. Umbrella Coverage

Because the policy excluded coverage for entrustment liability, there was no ambiguity which might otherwise require coverage.

5. School Liability

A high school was adjudged partially liable for damages suffered by a student "shot-gunned" by another student because the school had failed to perform a proper threat assessment of the student known to be violent

6. Attorney's Fees

A litigant obtained a judgment against a real estate development, but later moved the court unsuccessfully to add related entities to the judgment. Those entities who defeated the motion were therefore entitled to attorney's fees as "prevailing parties".

7. Statutes of Limitations

Such laws literally limit the jurisdiction of a court to hear a late-filed lawsuit, so a recent case was summarily dismissed.

8. Settlements

Written offers to settle litigation pursuant to a statute awarding an offering party its future costs, win or lose, if the offeree does not accept it and later receives a less favorable judgment, are ineffective if specific instructions for accepting are not included.

9. Current Cases

This month our office is assisting in the relocation of a manufacturing corporation; defending Superior Court lawsuits; prosecuting a consumer claim for identity theft and fraud; reorganizing an interstate law practice; and representing other commercial and individual clients.

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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