

## HARMON SIEFF

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November 2017

### 1. Drowned Child

A party host initially agreed to "watch" an invited toddler until his grandfather, a fire department captain, arrived and "took over" supervising the boy. Despite the tragedy, the homeowner-host was not liable because it was reasonable to entrust supervision to the qualified grandfather.

### 2. Class Actions

Claims examiners prosecuting wage claims were not certifiable as class representatives absent evidence that other examiners were similarly situated.

### 3. Billboards

A City law allowing on-site business and non-commercial signs while prohibiting new commercial billboards was constitutional because proliferating ads create public safety dangers and affect aesthetics.

### 4. Paycheck Stubs

State law requires employers to print partial Social Security numbers on wage statements, and workers can sue for damages without proving the company intentionally violated the rule.

### 5. Balloon Rides

Common carriers are those who offer public transportation and owe a heightened duty of care to passengers. A crashed hot air balloon, however, was not liable to injured passengers who assumed the risk of entering a craft which knowingly could not be precisely controlled.

6. Service Animals

An autistic man sued a seafood market which refused entry to his service-dog-in-training, but lost, because anti-discrimination disability laws only apply to fully and specially trained animals.

7. Death by Cigarette

Just because Congress allows cigarettes to be sold does not prevent a smoking victim from suing the manufacturer in state court.

8. Current Cases

This month I am representing a defrauded property owner, the buyer in a corporate acquisition, and a real estate broker in a commission dispute; registering a California corporation; finalizing the settlements of a vendor dispute and an employment lawsuit; and implementing a real estate transfer.

This office serves as a "lawyer of first resort" advocating for small businesses and individuals with disputes and transactions, 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