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July 2018

1. Runaway Cow

To avoid being vaccinated, a cow escaped through an open corral gate and charged into a lady a mile away. She was seriously hurt and sued the rancher. Livestock owners are generally liable for reasonably anticipated injuries, but the lady lost because the cow's actions were so unpredictable.

2. Wine and Cancer

Proposition 65 requires sellers to warn if a product includes carcinogens or is reproductively toxic. A customer sued a wine company for failing to provide a separate arsenic warning, but lost, because no additional warning is required.

3. Spider Law

A restaurant customer was paralyzed by a black widow bite and sued for damages. She was entitled to a trial because restaurants are required to control insect populations on their premises.

4. Car Accidents

A road-raged driver cursed at another, pulled in front, and braked abruptly, causing a four-car chain collision. Car No. 3 sued No. 4, but lost, because No. 3 had acted reasonably when confronted with an "unexpected sudden emergency" caused by the cursing front driver No. 1.

5. Chocolate Law

A candy bar customer sued the manufacturer for failing to disclose that the chocolate was produced with African slave labor. The candy company won because it had no duty to provide information not necessarily injurious, immoral, or unethical.

6. Easements

A farmer sued his neighbor to harvest ten disputed "borderline" acres, but lost, because he knew before he planted his trees that the land title was uncertain, and was negligent in not first confirming the boundary.

7. Monkey Selfie Redux

Although some of the parties have settled, the previously reported case continues. PETA sued a publisher of photographs randomly snapped by a wild monkey, but its appeal was denied because non-humans cannot enforce the Copyright Act.

8. Current Cases

This month we are defending a few civil lawsuits; representing a subpoenaed witness; negotiating a manufacturer's equipment lease; forming a new partnership; prosecuting an accident claim; and enforcing a judgment.

This office serves as a "lawyer of first resort" counseling and 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

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Sieff-Newsletter-July 2018

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