

HARMON SIEFF

A LAW CORPORATION
15760 VENTURA BOULEVARD #1600
ENCINO, CALIFORNIA 91436

Telephone: (818) 986-4563

Facsimile: (818) 986-4780

E-mail: SieffLaw@aol.com

Web: www.SieffLaw.com

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1. Safe Shoes

A restaurant which required workers to wear slip resistant footwear was sued by its workers for reimbursement. The restaurant won the appeal because the cost of basic wardrobe items need not be reimbursed by employers.

2. Partnerships

A dentist's family trust was a partner in a practice. After he died, his son became successor trustee and was sued by the partners to comply with a buyout agreement. The dentists lost because the trust remained a partner, so ownership did not change and trigger a buyout.

3. Failure to Prosecute

The law allows judges to dismiss civil cases not tried within three years. A case was not dismissed because the plaintiff had actively defended his claim with discovery, mediation efforts, and retained experts.

4. Native American Law

A tribal treaty in 1855 prevented Washington state from taxing gasoline transported from Oregon to a reservation over public highways.

5. Lawyers

Although not indispensable, contemporaneous time records maintained by a law firm are the best evidence of an attorney's hourly work.

6. College

Universities must allow students accused of sexual misconduct to cross examine critical witnesses during disciplinary proceedings.

7. Covid

a) New pending litigation asserts that one insurer violated state law by denying business interruption claims without full investigations.

b) Another insurer is refusing to pay claims for lost business income caused by government shut down orders. The policies could have, but did not, exclude coverage occasioned by catastrophic disease outbreaks.

8. Phone Apps

Phone owners can sue Apple for monopolizing an app because they were effectively "direct purchasers" from Apple.

8. Current Cases

This month our office is defending a claim for breach of a property management contract; pursuing an insurer for reimbursement of claims expenses; prosecuting personal injury claims; and advising and consulting on a complex estate plan, the sale of a business with real estate, the implementation of a buy-sell agreement, the rights of a terminated executive, and applications for government emergency loans.

This practice serves as a "lawyer of first resort", or "primary care attorney," 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