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1. Atomic Energy

Although Virginia law prohibits uranium mining, the federal government may still seize private land under eminent domain and devote it to mining despite the state law prohibition.

2. Antitrust

Although the NFL has contracts with television networks granting exclusive broadcast rights, cable subscribers can sue if they can prove the agreements monopolize the telecast market.

3. Wage Claims

Certain prevailing contract litigants generally recover attorney's fees, but a winning employer recovers reimbursement only if the losing employee sued in bad faith.

4. Garbage Liens

Cities are entitled to record property liens for unpaid solid waste collection charges, which liens are considered tax assessments with priority over ordinary mortgages.

5. Porter Ranch

Businesses within 5 miles of a massive gas leak cannot sue the utility because their claims do not involve personal injury or property damage and there is no precise boundary of affected land.

6. First Amendment

After a police chief investigated a city manager, the manager suspended him and prohibited him from speaking publicly. The chief successfully sued the City for retaliation since his complaints as a private citizen were protected by the First Amendment.

7. Car Accidents

Generally, a driver violating traffic laws is presumed liable for damages caused by such conduct, but not where another driver had parked illegally (and dangerously) on a freeway gore point.

8. Homeowners Association

A broken condo roof pipe flooded a unit. The owners who sued an HOA and manager for negligent maintenance were entitled to a trial because jurors could find that lack of maintenance breached the manager's promise to maintain "in first class condition".

9. Current Cases

This month our office continues to defend claims for breach of a commercial contract and another for loan fraud, is implementing a successful settlement of a civil action, performing a due diligence audit of a start-up company, and pursuing other personal injury claims.

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