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1. Golf Cart Danger

An autistic pupil was allowed to sit in an electric golf cart where he had a tantrum, accidentally accelerated the vehicle into a collision, and died. His mother recovered \$7.5 million because the school had failed to supervise him properly.

2. Fine print

A company filed a petition to arbitrate against a customer for non-payment, but lost because its contract provision was deceptive, appearing only on the reverse side of a boilerplate form in tiny print without headings or signature line.

3. Trade Secrets

An inventor who assigned his patent rights to a company cannot later sue for trade secret theft because publishing a patent describes the invention such that it is no longer a secret.

4. Bicycle Law

A cyclist was seriously injured after striking a pothole which had been earlier reported to the County. Although she had assumed unavoidable risks, she won because the County had increased the risk by ignoring knowledge of the pothole.

5. Property Taxes

Although California law does not reassess real estate transferred from parent to child, a sibling-to-sibling sale is not exempt.

6. Underinsured Motorist

In an arbitration disputing the extent of a victim's injuries, she was awarded \$150,000 based on chiropractic treatment.

7. Malpractice

a. A patient suing a medical group was entitled to a jury trial because the contract's arbitration provision was unconscionably one-sided favoring the clinic.

b. A different claim for failing to diagnose a brain tumor was not prohibited by the statute of limitations because the doctor could not prove the patient should have been earlier aware of the damage resulting from the misdiagnosis.

8. Current Cases

This month our office is continuing to represent estate administrators settling the affairs of decedents' companies and a stockholder buying out a co-shareholder; establishing a new limited liability real estate company; negotiating a commercial office lease; and defending a Superior Court lawsuit against a real estate corporation.

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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