Torts

By the Same Author

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Torts

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William P. Statsky

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For Patricia Farrell Statsky, a superb teacher, mother, spiritual guide, and wife

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Preface

Thousands of injuries occur every day on the road, at work, in department stores, on the playground, and at home. The incidence of property damage is equally extensive. Although most of these mishaps never find their way into the legal system, many are caused by wrongs that we call torts. In addition to providing compensation to victims, one of the major objectives of tort law is behavior modification. A premise of tort litigation is that one of the most effective ways to force people to avoid injuring others or damaging their property is to hang the threat of a lawsuit over their heads. These are some of the dynamics we will explore in this book.

Tort law is one of the early courses taught to first-year students in law school. This is because the study of torts can provide excellent insight into the common law, the practice of law, and legal skills, particularly legal analysis. Paralegal students can also tap into these benefits of studying torts. In a personal-injury practice, the attorney–paralegal team makes an important contribution. In many offices, the team is inseparable. To achieve this work environment, one of the first steps is to understand the principles of tort law that govern personal-injury cases. This understanding is the task before us in this book.