

Common Course Outline

PALG 207

Tort Law for Paralegals

3 Semester Hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

PALG 207 – 3 credits - Tort Law for Paralegals introduces students to civil law, including negligence, intentional torts, and strict liability actions. This course discusses defenses to tort law claims, and the types of damages available in such actions. Students examine court procedure in a tort trial, including settlement, pre-trial, trial and post-trial phases.

Prerequisite: PALG 103

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. explain the elements of selected torts;
2. interview clients and witnesses to gather the facts of a case;
3. analyze the facts of a particular case;
4. apply the law to the facts of a case;
5. apply the elements of negligence to fictional client scenarios;
6. differentiate between the various types of intentional torts;
7. differentiate between the various strict liability actions;
8. distinguish between the various types of damages;
9. apply the defenses to negligence and intentional torts to fictional client situations;
and
10. identify the various stages of trial and the associated documents with each stage.

Major Topics

- I. Negligence
 - A. Duty
 - B. Breach
 - C. Causation
 - D. Damages
 - E. Defenses to Negligence

- II. Intentional Torts
 - A. Types of Intentional Torts
 - B. Defenses to Intentional Torts
- III. Special Tort Actions
 - A. Malpractice
 - B. Misrepresentation
 - C. Nuisance
 - D. Strict Liability
 - E. Product Liability
 - F. Automobile Insurance
 - G. Defamation
- IV. Tort Reform
- V. Tort Liability
 - A. Joint Liability
 - B. Vicarious Liability
- VI. Bad Faith

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member and specific assignments and procedures for evaluating student performance will be described in the individual class syllabus, but will include the following:

Grading/exams: A minimum of two exams: a mid-term and a final (the final does not have to be cumulative) OR two major written projects combining objective and analytical/critical thinking components such as researching and analyzing a fictional client's case and a preparing a written memorandum detailing the law on point and the student's application and analysis of the law to the client's situation.

Writing: A minimum of two written assignments to allow for both objective and analytical review of primary legal sources, such as case briefs or a written comparison/analysis of cases and/or statutes.

Other Course Information

This course is a Paralegal Studies required course. It is taught in the classroom using a variety of instructional techniques, which are intended to meet the varied learning styles of our diverse population.