Linda Pieczynski, J.D. Copyright, all rights reserved, 2022

Today's topics

- Guidelines for:
 - Effective code administration
 - Enforcement of the legal aspects of the code
- Subject matter



What is our goal today?

 Learn techniques in executing the legal aspects of your job.



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What are the objectives?

Upon completion, participants will be better able to:

- Recognize complacency cycle
- Apply key legal concepts.
- Oldentify your legal authority.
- ODescribe how laws apply to you
- Oldentify the responsible parties
- Oldentify problems in the permit process.

More objectives

- Gather evidence
- Oraft written notices/complaints
- Conduct inspections (Fourth Amendment compliant)
- Ounderstand court process
- ○Be a good witness.
- Reduce exposure to liability lawsuits.



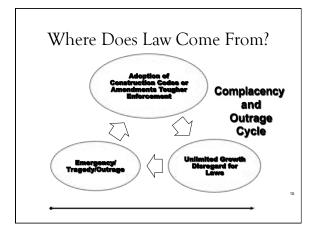


Historical Overview Chapter 2

Why Do We Care?

- Building official authority → Statute or ordinance
- No authority → Law forbids it, doesn't support it or constitutional restriction





Where Do Laws Come From?

- Code of Hammurabi
- o 27 A.D. Roman Empire
- 64 A.D. Roman Empire
- 1666 The London Building Act



Development of Modern Codes

- 1905 National Building Code
- 1927 Uniform Building Code
- 1945 Southern Standard Building Code
- 1950 Basic Building Code
- 2000 International Building Code

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Federal Legislative Law	
Chapter 5	
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Hierarchy of laws	
O U.S. Constitution	
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State constitution	
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State legislature and	
statutes	
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Local governments and ordinances	
ordinances 14	
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Terms	
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Common law - judicial decisions	_
Legislative law - written by legislature	
Act - another name for a statutory law	
Immunity - being free from the law	
Party Sales	-
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How the states get power

Tenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution — States are granted authority to adopt laws to protect and promote health, safety, morals and general welfare of its citizens.: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."



Where laws come from

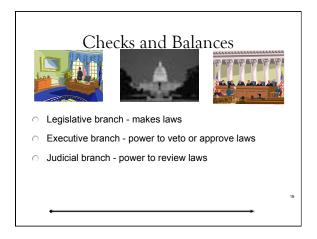
- U.S. Congress and U.S. Courts
- State Legislature and State Courts
- Local Governments

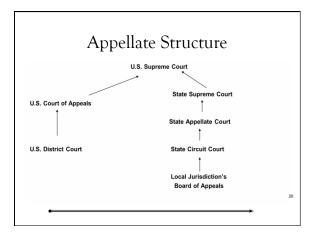


Forms of Government

- Federal
- State
- County
- Municipal Corporations
 - Cities, Villages, Towns, Townships, Boroughs
 - Class differentiation

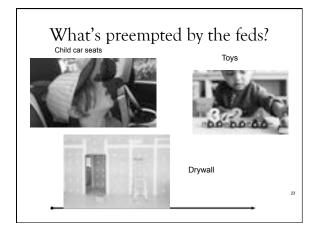






Role of the federal government and building codes Very limited Most states give power to local government Administration and enforcement remains with local jurisdiction

Doctrine of Preemption Supremacy Clause Congress deprives states of power To regulate of commerce





Sovereign Immunity Federal government immune from: Local building codes and zoning ordinances Includes courthouses, post offices and office What about leased buildings? State Legislative Law Chapter 4 Basis for the Building Official's

Duties and Powers

 State law adopts building code or police powers that sets forth his or her authority or implies the authority for:

 Local governments to adopt building codes that set forth his or her authority



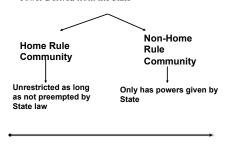
Dillon's Rule: A municipal corporation has only those powers which are:

- Expressly granted
- Implied or necessarily incident to express power
 and
- Essential and indispensable



Dillon's Rule - Ultra Vires

Power Derived from the State



Home Rule Municipalities

- Different types
- Establish their own charter, rather than state legislated
- Building codes adopted without state authorization.
- Free to regulate own affairs

Related Legislative Provisions

- Storm water management
- Protected development permitted in flood plain
- No development in floodway.
- Local jurisdiction adopts state law as its own



Local Governmental Law Chapter 3

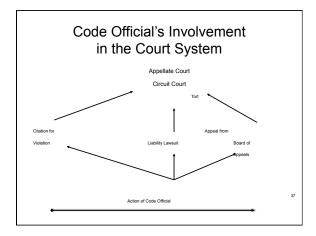
How to adopt building code

- Determine authority
- Publish notice of intent
- File code with the county or municipal clerk
- Hold public hearing
- File copies



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So many codes	
Building Code Residential Code	
Fire CodeProperty Maintenance Code	
 Zoning Ordinances – Land Use Ordinances Storm Water Management – National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA) 	
34	
Board of Appeals	
May hear appeals of a building official's	
decision ○ If true intent of code or rules have been	
incorrectly applied Provisions of the code do not fully apply Empowered to consider new and	
innovative building materials and techniques if these are equally good or	
better than the code No authority to waive requirements of the code	
35	
Administration and Enforcement	
Chapter 6	



Terms

- Complaint
- Due process
- Equitable estoppel
- Equitable powers
- Hearsay
- Injunctive relief
- Permanent injunction
- Probable cause
- Statute of limitations
- Temporary injunction
- Temporary restraining order
- Vested rights
- Writ of mandamus

Permit Issuance

Importance of application and permit

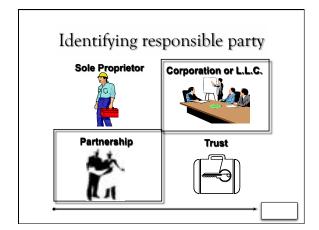
Error - safety and well-being of inhabitants of those mistakenly approved structures.

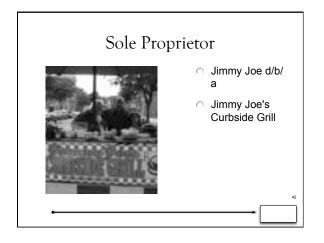
Permit examiner can minimize possible fatal mistakes

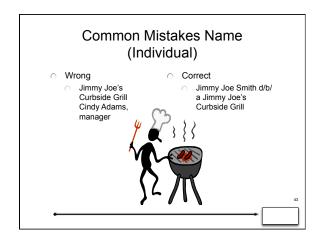


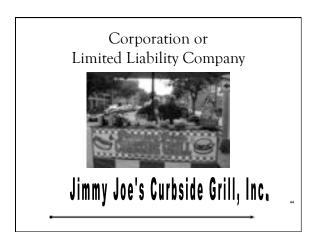
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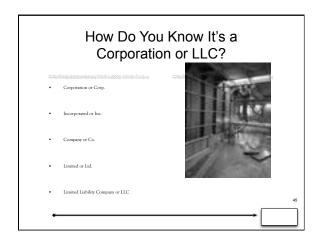






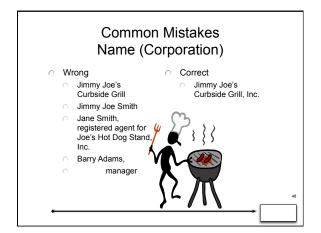






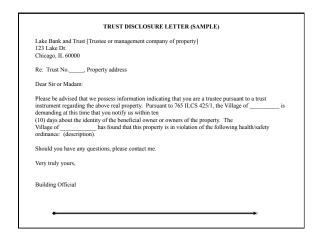




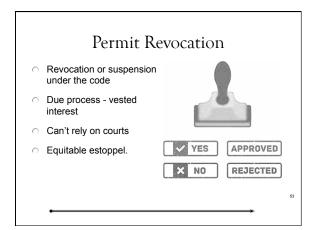








Common Ownership Mistakes Wrong Correct Assumes person is the Checks with Recorder of Deeds / orders a tract owner Assumes taxpayer is search the owner Checks with Secretary of Assumes there is only one owner State about corporation Sends and follows-up on Doesn't do trust disclosure letter trust disclosure letter Gets admission from the defendant Assumes management company is the defendant Notifies and/or charges multiple owners



Disclaimers Print disclaimer on building permit and application Permit issued wrongfully – revoke Writ of mandamus possible

Plans Examination

- Potential liability
- Qualified plans examiners
- O Can't rely on stamp of licensed architect or engineer





Inspection

- O IBC Section 109
- Documenting an inspection
 Record date, address and description of observations violations and impressions.

 - Section of building code violated.
 Take photographs or videos
 - Keep a copy of report



Where Do You Begin When Things Go Wrong? Who owns the property?

O Who occupies it?



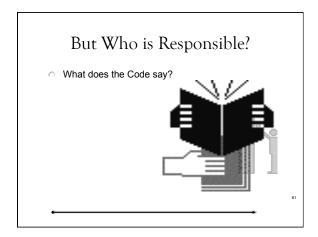
Owner – IBC Chapter 2

Any person, agent, operator, firm or corporation having a legal or equitable interest in the property



Person – IBC Chapter 2

 An individual, heirs, executors, administrators or assigns and also includes a firm, partnership or corporation, its or their successors or assigns, or the agent of any of the aforesaid.







Injunctive Relief

- Temporary restraining order
- Temporary injunction and
- Permanent injunction
- Issued by a court of equity or chancery court



How to handle complaints

- Obtain as much information as possible
- Route to the proper inspector.
- Make inspection, complete report which details action

taken.

- Notify complainant
- Have a procedure for anonymous complaints

SAMPLE FORM: NOTICE TO RESPONSIBLE PARTY – NO CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY – PRIOR BUILDING PERMIT –

October 3, 20XX

A.J. Murphy, President Big Al's Trucking Co. 6560 Hollywood Blvd. Everytown, USA

Re: 6560 Hollywood Blvd., Everytown, USA Property Index Number: 01-0001-001-00

Dear Mr. Murphy:

An inspection of your company's property at 6560 Hollywood Blvd.,

Everytown, USA, on October 2, 20XX shows the following violations of the code of ordinances of City of Everytown:

Notice of Violation

Occupying* a Structure without a Certificate of Occupancy in violation of IBC 111.1 as amended and adopted by reference in Section 8-1D-1 of the City of Everytown Code

 an addition to the building, being a storage area for the trucks, is being occupied** without a certificate of occupancy. A permit was obtained on June 11, 2000, for the addition, but a final inspection was never performed.

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Notice of Violation

You must discontinue this illegal activity and abate the violation. You must cease occupancy*** of the addition until a certificate of occupancy is obtained. You need to arrange for a final inspection by October 20, 20XX, and pay all necessary fees for a reinstatement or extension of the prior permit.**** A certificate of occupancy must be obtained by the close of business on November 22, 20XX, or a complaint will be filed against your company in a court of local jurisdiction.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss this matter further.

Very truly yours,

John Black

Building Official

- * Or using.
- ** Or used.
- *** Or use.

**** Use this language if the jurisdiction requires the payment of additional fees

SAMPLE FORM: PROOF OF SERVICE OF NOTICE-PROOF OF SERVICE
To:*
Name: Mr. John Fincham
Last known address: 6560 Hollywood Bivd.
Minneapolis, USA
On April 3, 20XX, I, Karyn Byrne, on oath state that:*

I served this notice by delivering a copy to each person to whom it is directed and depositing the same in the U.S. Mail at Seven Plaza Drive, Minneapolis, USA, with the proper offst-class postage prepaid.

I served this notice by mailing a copy to each person to whom it is directed by certified mail and depositing the same in the U.S. Mail at Seven Plaza Drive, Minneapolis, USA, with the proper postage prepaid.

I served this notice by mailing a copy to each person to whom it is directed by certified mail and elepositing the same in the U.S. Mail at Seven Plaza Drive, Minneapolis, USA, with the proper postage prepaid. Certified mail number

I served this notice by posting it in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by the notice, being 5650 Hollywood Bivd., Minneapolis, USA.

Subscribed and sworn to before this:

Date: April 3, 20XX

Deputy Code Official

Notary Public

**Check the appropriate box.

Comment: When serving the notice by posting it, the inspector should take a picture of the notice on the building so the defendant does not claim it was never there.

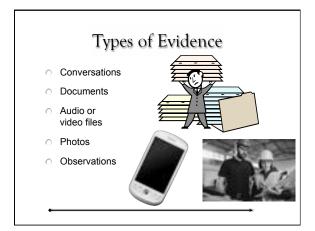
Quasi-criminal prosecutions

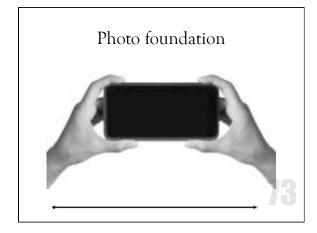
Complaint elements:

- Name of person or entity to be charged;
- Designating the charge;
- Body of the charge;
- Date and time of the offense;
- Signature of the complaining witnesses; and
- Notary or affidavit.

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Where's the Evidence? Bring everything you need to court: Files Pictures Review everything

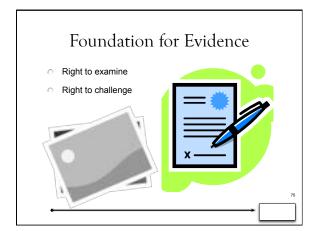




Admissibility of Evidence

- Must be competent (reliable)
- Must be material relationship between item and the offense
- Must be relevant must tend to prove or disprove some issue in the case

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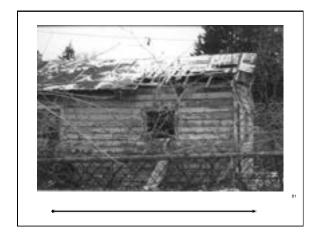
Types of Evidence - Conversations Conversations No hearsay except: Statements of defendant - Admissions of a party opponent Foundation required - date, time, place, who was present

Types of Evidence - Documents Common Documents Deeds Secretary of State corporate papers Permit applications Maps Inspection reports Certified copy of public documents

Source of Documents Recorder of Deeds Secretary of State - corporation dept. Local jurisdiction Inspector's file Websites of public agencies

Common Mistakes (Records) Wrong Correct Sufficient notes to refresh recollection Can't remember dates, times, places and admissions Insufficient documentation Correct Sufficient notes to refresh recollection Copies of all records, correspondence, return receipts, pictures, inspections

Types of Evidence - Observations and Photographs Observations of inspector Photographs and/or video - must truly and accurately depict subject matter therein











Where's the perspective?		
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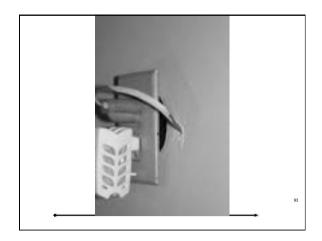


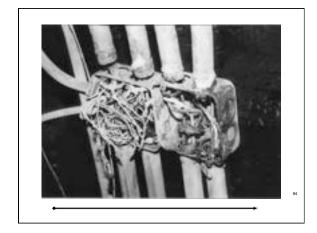












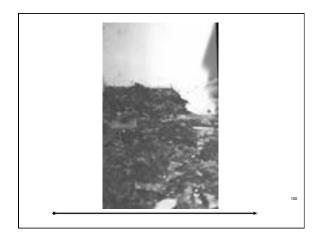














Administrative Law Chapter 7

Terms and Definitions Administrative action Answer O Burden of proof ○ De Novo

Creation of the BBCA

- Governing body adopts procedures
- BBCA becomes involved after denial of permit
- Application to Board if application denied by building inspector
- Advise applicant of right to appeal



Powers of the Board - IBC 105.3.1

- An appeal is allowed:
 If the true intent of this code or the rules legally adopted has been incorrectly interpreted;
 The provisions do not fully apply;
 An equally good or better form of construction is proposed.

 - Board has no authority to waive requirements of this code.

Appeals Procedures	
Rules of Procedure	-
Notice	
Burden of Proof and Presentation	
Granting Remedies	
Administrative Discretion	
Rehearings	
Orders	
106	
Zoning Board of Appeals	
 Considers and acts upon appeals to the officials decisions 	
 Can grant variations to the restrictions of the 	
ordinance	·
 Can make special exceptions to the ordinance itself 	
107	
	-
Related Property Law	
Concepts	-
Chapter 9	

Zoning Ordinances

- Local ordinances regulate use and development of property
- Specific districts based on types of uses for an area – residential, commercial and industrial



→

Zoning establishes guidelines

 Lot sizes, height and area restrictions, setbacks, number of structures, parking areas, etc. ...



Conditional Use or Special Use Permit

- Conditional Use, Nonconforming Use, Special Use Permit
- Carries specific terms, restrictions, conditions, or requirements



First Amendment Issues Adult entertainment ADULT

Covenants An agreement or promise between two or more parties to either do something or to refrain from doing something. Affirmative Negative Restrictive

Affirmative Covenant Glenstone Homeowners Ass'n v. State, Dept. of Transp.48 III.Ct.Cl. 388, Not Reported in N.E.2d, 1996 WL 1057751III.Ct.Cl. 1996. - promise to pay subdivision assessments even applies to IDOT

Negative Covenant

- Shelley v. Kraemer 334 U.S. 1, 68 S.Ct. 836(1948).
- Case struck down restrictive covenant prohibiting transfer of land based on race

Restrictive Covenant

 Save the Prairie Soc. v. Greene Development Group, Inc.323 III.App.3d 862, 752 N.E.2d 523III.App. 1 Dist.,2001. - Can only build single family homes on land

Easements

 Grant use or interest in land by entitling a person to use the land possessed by another person.



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Types of Easements

- Affirmative easement travel across or between adjoining properties
- Implied easement owner of 2 or more adjacent lots sells part thereof, grants easements needed to use the property



• Utility easements

Subdivision Regulations

 Developed to control future development and expansion of urban and municipal properties.



Constitutional Law Chapter 8

Fourth Amendment: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall be issued, but upon probable cause supported by Oath or affirmation and particularly describing the place to be searched and the persons or things being seized.

Consequences of Violation of Fourth Amendment

- Exclusionary Rule
- Motion to Suppress Evidence
- Civil Rights lawsuit for violating the Fourth Amendment

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Leading U.S. S.Ct. Cases

- Camara v. San Francisco 387 U.S. 523, 87 S.Ct. 1727, 18 L.Ed.2d 930(1967) – apartment building and health and safety inspection
- O See v. Seattle commercial warehouse

387 U.S. 541, 87 S.Ct. 1737, 18 L.Ed.2d 943(1967) – fire inspection

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Key Question

• What is the person's reasonable expectation of privacy that society is prepared to accept?

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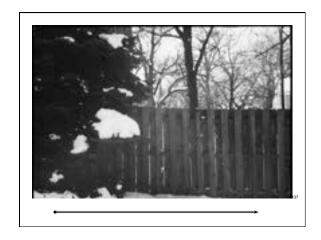




















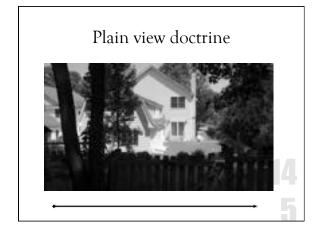




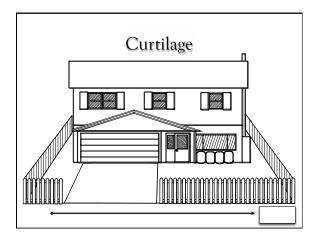


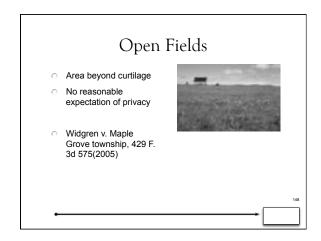
No warrant needed with plain view doctrine

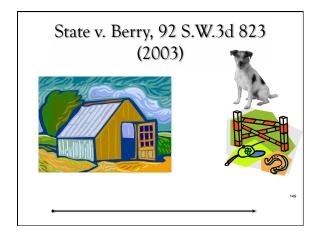














Vacant Property

Is It Abandoned?



No expectation of property on for abandoned property

- A person has no expectation of privacy in premises which he
 has intentionally or constructively abandoned, and police
 entry of such premises is not a search under the Fourth
 Amendment.
- Abel v. U.S., 362 U.S. 217, 80 S. Ct. 683, 4 L. Ed. 2d 668 (1960)

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Abandoned Property

- O Look at all the relevant circumstances.
- O Clear unequivocal and decisive evidence.
- Questions of fact and intent of the person who allegedly abandoned the premises.
- Infer intent from relevant circumstances and objective facts



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Fourth Amendment and commercial property





Are all businesses created equal regarding inspections?





Closely regulated business Exceptions Closely Regulated Business History of regulation Substantial interest by state Regulation serves that interest Warrantless search is necessary Adequate substitute for warrant

Contreras v. City of Chicago - 119 F.3d 1286(1997)

- Owner and employees of pizza restaurant that city temporarily shut down after conducting inspection brought § 1983 action against city and city officials, alleging that racial animus led to shut down.
- Sanitarians found refrigerator not working, paint peeling from the wall, thermometers were missing from two coolers, window was missing, rodent droppings and observed raw meat sitting out at room temperature
- Warrantless search did not violate 4th Amendment

New York v. Burger, 482 U.S. 691, 107 S.Ct. 2636, 96 L.Ed.2d 601 (1987)

- Safety of the food provided is an obvious "substantial governmental interest
- O Warrantless searches *in general* must be necessary to further the regulatory scheme
- Requirement of "certainty and regularity" in the application of any regulatory scheme that uses warrantless searches.

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New York v. Burger, 482 U.S. 691, 107 S.Ct. 2636, 96 L.Ed.2d 601 (1987)

- Regulatory statutes that authorize warrantless searches must perform two of the functions that warrants do:
- 1) an owner of a searched premises must be advised that the search is pursuant to the law and has a properly-defined scope, and
- 2) the discretion of the inspecting officers must be limited
- O Inspection was reasonable in Contreras case.

Drones, aerial maps and the Fourth Amendment



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California v. Ciraolo, 476 U.S. 207, 221 (1986)

To investigate an anonymous tip that Ciraolo was growing marijuana in his backyard, police officers flew an airplane over his property, photographing marijuana plants discovered on the property from one-thousand feet above.



Dow Chem. Co. v. United States, 476 U.S. 227(1986)

- Whether the curtilage or open-fields doctrine applied to the open areas between buildings on a large industrial property?
- Court concluded that the complex was more similar to an open field so no fourth amendment violation.



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United States v. Jones, 132 S. Ct. 945 (2012)

- Whether attaching a Global Positioning System (GPS) to a suspect's vehicle and monitoring his movements on public roads for 28 days without a warrant constituted an unreasonable search?
- Supreme Court found that it violated the Fourth Amendment but judges couldn't agree on the theory: trespass v. reasonable expectation of privacy.



16/

Florida v. Jardines, 133 S. Ct. 1409 (2013).

- Officers brought drug-sniffing dog onto private property so it could sniff from outside the door.
- Violated Fourth Amendment because it was beyond an implicit license to approach a home and solicit its occupants

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Kyllo v. United States, 533 U.S. 27 (2001)

- Use of thermal-imaging device
- $\, \cap \,$ Conduct constitutes unreasonable search when technology "is not in general public use."
- Mapmaking cameras are conventional so aerial maps are fine.

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Katz v. United States, 389 U.S. 347, 351 (1967)

- O Wiretap on public phone booth.
- Established reasonable expectation privacy standard



Florida v. Riley, 488 U.S. 445 (1989)

- Whether warrantless, naked-eye aerial observation interior of partially enclosed greenhouse violated the Fourth Amendment?
- 0 400 feet flight by helicopter okay

0 160



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Issues

- O No trespass if above 400 feet (public air space)
- What if you don't know someone is watching your property?
 How can you have a subjective expectation of privacy?
- O State statutes restrict use by law enforcement
- O Could be constitutional but not legal under a state statute

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Rental Inspection Ordinance

- Ashworth v. Moberly,53 S.W.3d 564(2001)
- Rozman v. City of Columbia Heights, 268 F.3d 588(2001) standing
- Jones v. Wildgen, 450 F. Supp.2d 1265(2006)

Towing Vehicles Off Private Property



Bezayiff v. City of St. Louis, 963 S.W.2d 225(1998) (need a warrant)

Redwood v. Lierman, 265 III.Dec. 432(2002)

But, is condemnation a Fourth Amendment taking?

- Freeman v. Dallas,242 F.3d 642(2001)
- Seizure under state law - reasonable



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Third Party Consent

- Co-owner
- Roommates
- Child



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What If One Consents and One Refuses?

- O Georgia v. Randolph, 547 U.S. 103, 126 S.Ct. 1515(2006)
- Fernandez v. California,

134 S. Ct. 1126(2014)



Apparent Authority

- O Illinois v. Rodriguez, 497 U.S. 177(1990)
- O People v. Garza, 276 III.App.3d 659(1995)



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Montville v. Lewis 87 F.3d 900 (1996)

- Apparent authority of contractor where no permit had been issued
- Qualified immunity



Third Party Consent - Age





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Search Warrant Exceptions:

- Consent (i.e. waiver of Fourth Amendment right)
- Exigent Circumstances
 - Public Health or Safety
 - Closely Regulated Business
- No Search (e.g., observation from public area, open fields doctrine) - Artes -Roy v. City of Aspen, 31 F.3d 958(1994) Stop work order
- O Good faith exception to exclusionary rule

Consent

- Verbal or in writing by someone having authority over the property
- Permits
- Make sure you memorialize it



Exigent Circumstances

Public Health or Safety

Closely Regulated
Business

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When a Building Can Be Entered

- To put out a fire
- Conduct an initial inspection for its cause
- Seize evidence in plain view
- Michigan v. Tyler, 436 U.S. 499(1978) (Slight interruption OKAY)
- If owner consents

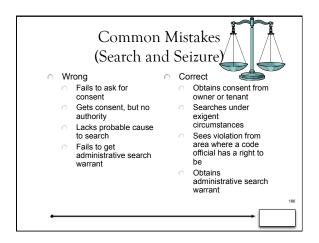






When a Building Can Be Entered (When the emergency is over) With consent With a Search Warrant Michigan v. Clifford, 464 U.S. 287(1984)





Administrative Search Warrant Requirements Complaint Sets forth authority of code official to search Sets forth probable cause in narrative form Describes place to be searched Cites code provisions violated If no known violations, sets forth factors justifying warrant

Administrative Search Warrant Requirements Search Warrant Sets forth address of place to be searched and particular areas. If appropriate (e.g. Closets, drawers) and things to be seized Recites finding of probable cause Signature of neutral magistrate Date and time of issuance Search Warrant Return Sets forth when warrant was served, or Sets forth that warrant was not served If anything seized, lists inventory of property taken



	-
1 The 20XX International Property Maintenance Code or associated and alsymal by reference in Mexicon. of the conference is fundable for all resolutes and promous for basic experiences and furtilists for light's ventilation, company, thesis, leading planning, advantage and sensition for white time.	
For, for spain, size and bootion: and for salls and nashbary mointenance for all structures and propriate new in extension.	
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adherical to pursue recomme as provided by lan". 4. Campril 4: Elementary Court of than Francisco, 87 S.Cs. \$125(20)(7) precides that	
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Overcrowding Platteville Area Apartment Association v. City of Platteville, 179 F.3d 574(1999) Special rules for overcrowding search warrants







Civil R	ights
Act of	1871

Title 1983 Action

- 1. Color of state law
- A deprivation of federal constitutional or statutory rights
 - a. Fourth Amendment search and seizure
 - b. Fourteenth Amendmentdue process/equal protection
 - c. Discrimination- race / disability / religion

21

Defenses

- Absolute immunity
- Qualified immunity

Post-deprivation Hearing

- O Flatford v. City of Monroe, 17 F.3d 162(1994)
- O What process is due when government evicts citizens from their houses in an emergency?
- Building condemned after inspection
- Inspector entitled to qualified immunity for lack of pre-deprivation hearing but not post-deprivation hearing - residents must be notified and are entitled to a hearing

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Pretextual Searches

- O Jones v. City of Youngstown, 980 F. Supp. 908(1997)
- Police accompanied inspectors who ordered residence be vacated due to emergency
- Inspectors should have informed residents of right to appeal order
- Police officers focused on drug violations and violated 4th Amendment
- Lack of post-deprivation hearing

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Liability for Intentional Wrongdoing
Chapter 10

Government v. Individual Liability Each may be sued Government will provide attorney for individual sued

Intentional Torts v. Negligence Intentional tort - involves conduct the person intended to occur Regligence - no intent involved but harm caused and breach of duty of care

Intentional Torts Malicious prosecution Institution of criminal, civil or administrative proceedings Termination of proceedings in favor of the accused Absence of probable cause Malice

Summary of Malicious Prosecution

- Examples of individuals who might file malicious prosecution suits against building officials include:
 - Contractors who do not follow building plans and specifications.
 - Contractors who do not call for necessary inspections.
 - Developers who begin construction without a permit

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Workbook Page 91

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Intentional Torts

- Abuse of Process
- False Imprisonment
- Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
- Assault and Battery
- Trespass



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Negligent Wrongdoing
Chapter 11

Public duty doctrine

 Plaintiff must prove that municipality owed a duty to the plaintiff not just the general public when performing the activity that gave rise to the action



Negligence

- Elements
 - Duty owed to another to act according to a certain standard
 - Failure to act in accordance with the standard
 - Breach of duty
 - Misfeasance improper performance
 - $\cap \ \ \text{Malfeasance-doing something you shouldn't do} \\$
 - Nonfeasance failure to do something
 - Proximate cause of injury or damage to another

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Breach of Duty

 Breach of duty is the third element of a negligence cause of action.

There are two ways a duty can be breached:

- O By action, such as an improper inspection.
- O By inaction, such as failure to inspect.

Malfeasance

- The performance of some act which a person ought not do at all.
- O An inspector falsifies an inspection report

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Misfeasance

- $\ensuremath{\cap}$ The improper performance of some act which a person may lawfully do.
- During an inspection of a townhouse, the inspector fails to check to see if the deck is properly connected to the structure which later collapses because it was not.

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Nonfeasance

- The nonperformance of some act which a person is obligated or has the responsibility to perform.
- An inspector fails to conduct an electrical inspection at a business and the problem overlooked causes a fire.

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Summary of Defenses and Immunities

- O Contributory Negligence
- Assumption of Risk
- Sovereign immunity

*

Summary of State Tort Liability Acts

- Many states have enacted state tort liability acts.
 Acts determine amount of immunity for government
- O Goals:
 - Easier to sue government.
 - Clarifies the in which the government and its officials can be sued.

Summary of Indemnification and Insurance

 Errors and omissions insurance protects in situations where an error is made which could give rise to liability. It applies only to areas of specialized skill to knowledge, such as the issuance of a building permit.

Tort Immunity Laws

- O Replaces abolished doctrine of sovereign immunity
- Protects local public entities and public employees from liability
- Don't want to dissipate public funds for private damage awards

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What Does the Tort Immunity Act Provide?

- O Confers immunities and defenses
- O Not new duties
- Local government may have a duty but may be immune under the Act

Tort immunity

- A local public entity and public employees are not liable for injury caused by their failure to make an inspection, or by reason of making an inadequate or negligent inspection of any property, other than that of the public legal entity, to determine whether the property complies with or violates any enactment or contains or constitutes a hazard to health or safety.
- O 745 ILCS 10/2-105

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Tort immunity

- A public employee is not liable for his act or omission in the execution or enforcement of any law unless such act or omission constitutes willful and wanton conduct.
- O 745 ILCS 10/2-202

Tort immunity

- A public employee is not liable for an injury caused by his issuance, denial, suspension or revocation of or by his failure or refusal to issue, deny, suspend or revoke, any permit, license, certificate, approval, order or similar authorization where he is authorized by enactment to determine whether or not such authorization should be issued, denied, suspended or revoked.
- O 745 ILCS 10/2-206

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Tort immunity

- A public employee is not liable for an injury caused by his failure to make an inspection, or by reason of making an inadequate or negligent inspection, of any property, other than that of the local public entity employing him, for the purpose of determining whether the property complies with or violates any enactment or contains or constitutes a hazard to health or safety.
- O 745 ILCS 10/2-207

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Absolute v. Qualified Immunity Gray v. Derderian 400 F.Supp.2d 415 D.R.I.,2005

- State fire marshall immune in absence of proof of bad faith or malice for failure to enforce fire code
- O Under Rhode Island law, allegations that town officials failed to fulfill their common law duty to act with care in inspecting nightclub and enforcing fire code stated negligence claim against town and officials, to be analyzed under public duty doctrine, in action arising from nightclub fire that was triggered by fireworks ignited at concert and caused numerous injuries and deaths.

Station Nightclub Fire 2003*

- Located in West Warwick, Rhode Island and built in 1946. The Club, a wood frame structure, was equipped with non-fire
- resistant soundproof foam boards to limit the noise level.

 *Soundproofing board obstructed a couple exits.
- *The building was equipped with an automatic fire alarm system
- Building not equipped with a sprinkler system due to an overlooked code requirement when the building changed occupancies...which required a sprinkler system to be installed as it no longer met a code
- *Excerpt from: History of Fire and Fire Codes by Department of Public Safety, State of Iowa
- For a detailed examination: Trial by Fire

Station Fire

- $\, \cap \,$ There were 462 occupants in a building built for only 300.
- The building had 4 working exits.
- Building had passed the annual fire inspection.
- On February 20, 2003 the band "Great White" was playing at
- The band used pyrotechnics without obtaining a required permit from the city.
- The band used pyrotechnics without obtaining a required permit from the city.
- The band tour manager ignited a set of pyrotechnics during the

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Station Fire

- Sparks from the pyrotechnics reached the ceiling and eventually hit the non-fire resistant soundproof boards.
- The soundproof boards caught fire.
- The flames were believed to be part of the act until the spectators realized the flames and smoke were out of control.
- In less than a minute, the stage was completely involved in
- The crowd, band members, and staff started to rush towards

Station Fire

- The fire alarm activated as the stage became fully involved with fire. Burning soundproofing foam created dense, toxic smoke throughout

- nuiding.

 No emergency lighting units within the building.

 Most people rushed for the Main Front Door entrance.

 The Front Door was ultimately blocked due to the rush for the door.

 Fire engulfed the club within approximately 3 minutes.

 Due to the stampede for the exits, many were killed or injured.

- Burns, smoke inhalation, and blunt force trauma from trampling were the main causes of death in this fire. DEATH AND DAMAGE TOLL
- 100 killed and approximately 230 injured.

The Role of the Witness Chapter 13

Terms

- Cross-examination
- Redirect
- Direct examination
- Rule of sequestration
- Discovery
- Voir dire
- Expert witness
- Impeachment
- Fact witness
- Subpoena duces tecum
- Hypothetical question

Summary of Role of the Fact Witness

- Main witness = best field inspector
- Well versed in building code and able to communicate effectively



24

Testifying Effectively - Listen

- Listen to the question asked
- Don't volunteer information
- If more information is needed, let attorney ask the question



24

Analyze O Say "I don't know" if you don't know the answer. O Don't guess! Speak Up The judge needs to hear you. O If there is a court reporter, she or he needs to hear you. Objections O Stop testifying until judge has ruled Objection overruled – you may answer Objection sustained - don't answer

Keep Your Cool Trying to rattle your opponent is a trial tactic Be polite but testify with authority Be the nicest person in the courtroom

Confused?

- Ask for the question to be repeated or rephrased
- Don't be pressured to answer a question you don't understand.



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Feeling Frisky?

- O Don't interrupt
- Never interject comments
- Don't talk back to anyone



Do You Swear to Tell the Truth? Always tell the truth even if it hurts your case Your reputation is paramount Guidelines for Witnesses Leading questions suggests answers.

o "Wasn't the building foundation already laid by

March 1, Mr. Building Official?"

Guidelines for Witnesses

Do not get angry under cross-examination.

When addressing a judge and jurors:

Speak clearly and audibly.

Look directly at them.

Look and sound confident.

Guidelines for Witnesses

- Wear neat everyday clothes
- Attorney should prepare you for what will happen
- O If either attorney raises an objection, wait until the judge rules on the motion.

Sequestration of Witnesses

- Keep witnesses apart
- Talking to opposing counsel
- Might get to sit with counsel