## CHAPTER 1. TORT LAW AND LITIGATION IN GENERAL

| § 1:1  | Introduction and scope of this treatise               |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| § 1:2  | Definition of a tort "claim"                          |
| § 1:3  | The Georgia Code's important role in Georgia tort law |
| § 1:4  | Sources of statutory claims and statutory or common   |
|        | law duties                                            |
| § 1:5  | Purposes of tort law                                  |
| § 1:6  | Choice of law and conflict of laws                    |
| § 1:7  | Application and effect of federal law                 |
| § 1:8  | Preemption of local law by state law                  |
| § 1:9  | Overview of the 2005 tort reform act                  |
| § 1:10 | Ethical issues in tort litigation; relationship to    |
|        | standard of care in legal malpractice claims          |
| 8 1.11 | Professionalism in tort litigation                    |

#### **CHAPTER 2. NEGLIGENCE**

| § 2:1  | Negligence in general                                                                                                    |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| § 2:2  | The general rule: no duty to act                                                                                         |
| § 2:3  | Duty of care—Can arise from statute, contract, or common law                                                             |
| § 2:4  | —Arising from engaging in an affirmative act                                                                             |
| § 2:5  | —From a voluntary undertaking                                                                                            |
| § 2:6  | —From a gratuitous promise                                                                                               |
| § 2:7  | —To prevent a third person from causing physical<br>harm due to special relationship or control over the<br>third person |
| § 2:8  | —Parents to control adult child                                                                                          |
| § 2:9  | —Arising from supplying a chattel with reason to know its foreseeable use will cause physical harm                       |
| § 2:10 | -Negligent misrepresentation causing physical harm                                                                       |
| § 2:11 | —Common carriers to passengers                                                                                           |
| § 2:12 | —Arising from contract                                                                                                   |
| § 2:13 | ——Third party beneficiaries                                                                                              |
| § 2:14 | —Owners or occupiers of land                                                                                             |
| § 2:15 | Breach of duty                                                                                                           |
| § 2:16 | —Failure to exercise ordinary diligence or care                                                                          |
| § 2:17 | —Persons with diminished capacity, impaired persons or children                                                          |
| § 2:18 | —Extraordinary diligence or slight negligence                                                                            |

| § 2:19 | —Gross negligence or slight diligence                |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------|
| § 2:20 | —Willful and wanton misconduct                       |
| § 2:21 | —The business judgment rule                          |
| § 2:22 | —Res ipsa loquitur                                   |
| § 2:23 | —Negligence per se                                   |
| § 2:24 | —Voluntary undertakings under Restatement § 324A     |
| § 2:25 | Causation—Elements                                   |
| § 2:26 | —Cause-in-fact                                       |
| § 2:27 | —General principles of proximate cause               |
| § 2:28 | —Proximate cause—Intervening proximate cause         |
| § 2:29 | ——Concurrent proximate cause                         |
| § 2:30 | — — Third party criminal activity                    |
| § 2:31 | Damages—Generally negligence requires injury to      |
|        | plaintiff's person or damage to plaintiff's property |
| § 2:32 | —Exceptions to impact rule                           |
| § 2:33 | —Economic loss rule                                  |
| § 2:34 | ——Exceptions                                         |
| § 2:35 | Additional negligence-based claims                   |

## CHAPTER 3. PRODUCTS LIABILITY AND RELATED DOCTRINES

| § 3:1  | Introduction and scope                                                                                                         |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| § 3:2  | Manufacturer liability for harm to natural persons caused by new, defective personal property                                  |
| § 3:3  | Did the defendant manufacture and sell new personal property?                                                                  |
| § 3:4  | Breach of duty—Existence of a "defect"                                                                                         |
| § 3:5  | —Design defect                                                                                                                 |
| § 3:6  | —Manufacturing defect                                                                                                          |
| § 3:7  | —Duty to warn based on information known to the<br>manufacturer at the time of sale or based on later-<br>acquired information |
| § 3:8  | Breach of warranty                                                                                                             |
| § 3:9  | —Express warranty                                                                                                              |
| § 3:10 | —Implied warranty                                                                                                              |
| § 3:11 | Causation requires cause-in-fact and proximate cause                                                                           |
| § 3:12 | Statutes of limitations and repose                                                                                             |
| § 3:13 | Other defenses and limitations on defenses                                                                                     |
| § 3:14 | Liability of retailers for physical harm or property damage caused by products manufactured by others                          |
| § 3:15 | Liability of sellers of unwholesome food or provisions                                                                         |
| § 3:16 | Liability of sellers of adulterated drugs or liquor                                                                            |
| § 3:17 | Liability of manufacturers or distributors of certain drugs                                                                    |

§ 3:18 Liability of distributors of blood and human body parts

### CHAPTER 4. STRICT LIABILITY AND RELATED DOCTRINES

- § 4:1 In general
- § 4:2 Injuries or damage caused by explosives or blasting
- § 4:3 Heightened liability for personal injuries caused by wild animals
- § 4:4 Greater liability for injuries caused by vicious or dangerous animals other than domesticated livestock
- § 4:5 Damages caused by roaming livestock
- § 4:6 Innkeeper liability for injury to guests or guests' property
- § 4:7 Carrier liability for injury to their customers or customers' property
- § 4:8 Statutory strict liability

conduct

§ 5:19

Defenses to premises liability

### CHAPTER 5. PREMISES LIABILITY AND RELATED DOCTRINES

§ 5:1 Introduction Duty arises from "ownership," "possession," or "occupation" of "premises" or "approaches" § 5:2 Duty of out-of-possession landlords § 5:3 Breach and the standard of care turns on the "status" § 5:4 between owner/occupier and plaintiff at time of injury Duty of care to invitees—Generally § 5:5 § 5:6 —Defect, condition, or hazard but not active negligence § 5:7 —To inspect for hazards or conditions § 5:8 —The superior knowledge rule § 5:9 Liability to invitees—Causation § 5:10 —Injury and the impact rule § 5:11 Standard of care owed to licensees Standard of care owed to trespassers—Generally § 5:12 § 5:13 —Attractive nuisances § 5:14 Standard of care owed to volunteers § 5:15 Standard of care owed to emergency personnel, social guests, and minors § 5:16 Standard of care owed to invitees on recreational property § 5:17 Liability for harm to or caused by independent contractors § 5:18 Liability of premises owners for third party criminal

§ 5:20 Qualified immunity for damage caused by prescribed burns

#### CHAPTER 6. WRONGFUL DEATH

- § 6:1 Background
- § 6:2 Negligence, products liability, and other conduct that supports a claim
- § 6:3 Persons entitled to maintain a wrongful death claim
- § 6:4 Right to bring wrongful death claim initially belongs to surviving spouse
- § 6:5 Wrongful death claim by surviving child or children
- § 6:6 Wrongful death claim by surviving parent or parents
- § 6:7 Wrongful death claim by personal representative of decedent
- § 6:8 Damages for wrongful death
- § 6:9 Defenses to wrongful death claims

#### CHAPTER 7. INTENTIONAL TORTS REQUIRING BODILY INJURY OR MENTAL DISTRESS

- § 7:1 Background
- § 7:2 Requirement of intent; impact rule
- § 7:3 Battery
- § 7:4 Assault
- § 7:5 Intentional infliction of emotional distress
- § 7:6 Sexual harassment

### CHAPTER 8. INJURY TO A FAMILY MEMBER OR TO A FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

- § 8:1 Injuries to a minor
- § 8:2 Parents' claim against a defendant for furnishing alcohol to their minor child
- § 8:3 Harm to plaintiff's marital relationship

#### CHAPTER 9. CLAIMS FOR HARM CAUSED BY UNLAWFUL DETENTION OR ABUSE OF CRIMINAL OR CIVIL PROCEEDINGS

- § 9:1 Introduction to false imprisonment, malicious arrest, malicious prosecution, and liability for procurement.
- § 9:2 False imprisonment
- § 9:3 Procuring false imprisonment
- § 9:4 Malicious or false arrest and malicious prosecution
- § 9:5 Abusive civil litigation

§ 9:6 Spoliation of evidence: sanction, not a tort claim

#### CHAPTER 10. INJURY TO REPUTATION OR PRIVACY: DEFAMATION, INVASION OF PRIVACY, AND RELATED CLAIMS

| § 10:1  | Introduction                                         |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------|
| § 10:2  | Defamation—First Amendment concerns: necessity to    |
|         | prove malice or mere negligence                      |
| § 10:3  | —Fault of malice or negligence                       |
| § 10:4  | —Publication of defamatory statement about plaintiff |
|         | to a third party                                     |
| § 10:5  | —Truth and opinions                                  |
| § 10:6  | —Per se vs. per quod                                 |
| § 10:7  | —Per se                                              |
| § 10:8  | —Per quod                                            |
| § 10:9  | —Absolute and qualified privileges                   |
| § 10:10 | —Justification, limitations, the Anti-SLAPP Statute, |
|         | and other defenses                                   |
| § 10:11 | —Media defendants                                    |
| § 10:12 | —Liability of others in addition to an actual        |
|         | publisher                                            |
| § 10:13 | —Damages, punitive damages, and injunctive relief    |
| § 10:14 | Violation of liberty interest of government employee |
| § 10:15 | Invasion of privacy—Common law and related           |
|         | statutory claims                                     |
| § 10:16 | —Damages and remedies                                |
| § 10:17 | —Defenses                                            |
| § 10:18 | Disparaging goods, services, or business of another  |

#### CHAPTER 11. HARM TO ECONOMIC INTERESTS; FRAUD; MISREPRESENTATION; INTERFERENCE; FIDUCIARY DUTY

| § 11:1 | Fraud—Generally                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| § 11:2 | —Material representation of present fact              |
| § 11:3 | —Omission of material fact                            |
| § 11:4 | -Knowledge of falsity or reckless disregard for truth |
| § 11:5 | —Justified and actual reliance                        |

—By surprise § 11:6

8 11:1

- § 11:7 -Economic damages required for actual fraud
- § 11:8 Fraudulent inducement to enter a contract
- Fraudulent transfer of property § 11:9
- § 11:10 Fair Business Practices Act

Negligent misrepresentation that causes pecuniary § 11:11 loss § 11:12 Tortious interference with contracts or business relations § 11:13 Interference with existing or prospective business relations Tortious interference with burial rights § 11:14 § 11:15 Misappropriation of trade secrets or ideas § 11:16 Wrongful discharge or termination Breach of fiduciary duty or confidential relationship § 11:17 § 11:18 Wrongful dishonor Tortious termination of utility service § 11:19 Negligent disclosure of personally identifiable § 11:20

### CHAPTER 12. PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE

information: identity theft

- § 12:1 Introduction
- § 12:2 Medical malpractice—Generally
- § 12:3 —Duty
- § 12:4 —Breach—When expert testimony needed
- § 12:5 ——Qualifications of expert witnesses for professional malpractice claims; additional qualifications for medical malpractice claims
- § 12:6 ——Affidavits required for certain professional malpractice claims
- § 12:7 ——Emergency medical care
- § 12:8 —Cause-in-fact and proximate cause
- § 12:9 —Damages and caps on damages
- § 12:10 —Liability of hospitals, clinics, and related entities
- § 12:11 —Defenses and related issues
- § 12:12 Legal malpractice—Generally
- § 12:13 —Duty
- § 12:14 —Breach
- § 12:15 —Cause-in-fact and proximate cause
- § 12:16 —Damages
- § 12:17 —Liability for acts of nonlawyer personnel
- § 12:18 —Defenses

#### CHAPTER 13. HARM TO, OR INTERFERENCE WITH RIGHTS IN, PERSONAL PROPERTY; MISAPPROPRIATION OF TRADE SECRETS; THEFT OR MISUSE OF ELECTRONIC DATA

§ 13:1 Background and definitions

§ 13:10

§ 13:2 Trespass to personalty § 13:3 Theft of personal property, conversion, and trover § 13:4 Bailments § 13:5 —Rights and duties of bailor § 13:6 -Rights and duties of bailee § 13:7 —Liability to third parties § 13:8 Wrongful repossession § 13:9 Misappropriation of trade secrets or ideas

Computer theft, misuse, and data torts

#### CHAPTER 14. HARM TO, OR INTERFERENCE WITH RIGHTS IN, REAL PROPERTY

§ 14:1 Historical background § 14:2 Trespass to real property § 14:3 Nuisance—Definitions; public compared to private § 14:4 —Claim for private nuisance § 14:5 —Distinguished from similar claims § 14:6 -Enjoining nuisances or anticipatory nuisances; limitations; notice § 14:7 Governmental liability for trespass or nuisance § 14:8 Defamation of title § 14:9 Wrongful foreclosure and wrongful attempted

foreclosure

## CHAPTER 15. VICARIOUS LIABILITY AND RELATED CLAIMS AND DOCTRINES

| § 15:1  | Introduction                                                                                                                        |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| § 15:2  | Vicarious liability as distinguished from liability for<br>negligent hiring, retention, or supervision and<br>negligent entrustment |
| § 15:3  | Principal-agent relationship in general                                                                                             |
| § 15:4  | Agency distinguished from other legal relationships                                                                                 |
| § 15:5  | Vicarious liability in the principal-agent context                                                                                  |
| § 15:6  | Vicarious liability arising from shared control of an agent                                                                         |
| § 15:7  | No vicarious liability for harm caused by an "independent contractor"                                                               |
| § 15:8  | Exceptions: principal liability for torts of independent contractor                                                                 |
| § 15:9  | No vicarious liability on a "special master" for harm caused by a "borrowed servant"                                                |
| § 15:10 | No vicarious liability for harm caused by a fellow employee                                                                         |
|         |                                                                                                                                     |

| § | 15:11 | Negligence claims against a principal for harm caused by negligent hiring, retention, or supervision of an agent                        |
|---|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| § | 15:12 | of an agent Negligence claims for permitting another to use a dangerous instrumentality                                                 |
| § | 15:13 | Negligence claims for permitting an incompetent<br>person to drive a vehicle or use another dangerous<br>chattel: negligent entrustment |
| ξ | 15:14 | Liability for conspiracy; RICO                                                                                                          |
|   | 15:15 | Liability for aiding and abetting or procuring tortious harm                                                                            |
| 8 | 15:16 | Agent's liability to principal                                                                                                          |
|   | 15:17 | Liability of agent to third parties                                                                                                     |
|   | 15:18 | Agent's liability for torts of underservant                                                                                             |
| _ | 15:19 | Employer's liability to employee: workers'                                                                                              |
| Ü |       | compensation as exclusive remedy; exceptions                                                                                            |
| § | 15:20 | Liability of independent contractors                                                                                                    |
|   | 15:21 | Authority of agent; nondelegable duties                                                                                                 |
| § | 15:22 | Principal's ratification of agent's conduct                                                                                             |
| § | 15:23 | Notice to agent as notice to principal                                                                                                  |
| § | 15:24 | Partnerships—Defined                                                                                                                    |
|   | 15:25 | —Liability of partners to third parties                                                                                                 |
| § | 15:26 | —Liability of partners to other partners                                                                                                |
| § | 15:27 | Joint ventures or joint enterprises                                                                                                     |
| § | 15:28 | Limited partnerships                                                                                                                    |
|   | 15:29 | Limited liability partnerships                                                                                                          |
|   | 15:30 | Unincorporated associations                                                                                                             |
| Š | 15:31 | Professional corporations                                                                                                               |
|   | 15:32 | Liability of corporate constituents, related corporations, and successor corporations for harm caused by the tort of a corporation      |
| § | 15:33 | Liability for acting on behalf of non-existent corporations                                                                             |
| § | 15:34 | Liability for providing alcoholic beverages to a tortfeasor; dram shop liability                                                        |
| § | 15:35 | Liability of an owner of a vehicle for vehicular injuries                                                                               |
| § | 15:36 | Liability of a vehicle's passenger for damages caused<br>by the driver: guest passengers                                                |
| § | 15:37 | Liability of a family member for torts of another family member                                                                         |
| § | 15:38 | Liability of a family member for torts of a family member—The family purpose doctrine                                                   |

## CHAPTER 16. IMMUNITY FROM TORT CLAIMS

§ 16:1 Background and general considerations

| § | 16:2  | Infant immunity                                                                                                        |
|---|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| § | 16:3  | Interspousal immunity                                                                                                  |
|   | 16:4  | Intra-family immunity                                                                                                  |
| § | 16:5  | Sovereign immunity and governmental employee official immunity against claims for damages                              |
| § | 16:6  | Waiver of sovereign immunity against claims for damages caused by specific acts or conduct                             |
| § | 16:7  | County sovereign immunity and qualified immunity of county employees against claims for damages                        |
| § | 16:8  | Municipal immunity and employee qualified immunity against claims for damages                                          |
| § | 16:9  | Emergency services immunity against suits for damages                                                                  |
| § | 16:10 | School district immunity and school district employee qualified immunity against claims for damages                    |
| § | 16:11 | Waiver of sovereign immunity regarding claims for declaratory and injunctive relief                                    |
| § | 16:12 | Charitable immunity against claims for damages                                                                         |
| § | 16:13 | Immunity of health care providers for possessing low-THC oil against claims for damages                                |
| § | 16:14 | Immunity of broadcasters of Amber Alerts against claims for damages                                                    |
| § | 16:15 | Immunity of firearms instructors against claims for damages                                                            |
| § | 16:16 | Immunity of employers or property owners for transportation, use, or possession of firearms against claims for damages |
| § | 16:17 | Immunity from crimes committed by persons under pre-trial release against claims for damages                           |
| § | 16:18 | Immunity for boat liveries from certain tort liability                                                                 |
| § | 16:19 | Immunity for certain mental health care providers                                                                      |
|   |       |                                                                                                                        |

## CHAPTER 17. DEFENSES TO INTENTIONAL TORTS

- § 17:1 Introduction
- § 17:2 Justification
- § 17:3 Recapture of property
- § 17:4 Consent
- § 17:5 Lack of intent including by reason of insanity or incompetency

# CHAPTER 18. DEFENSES AND DOCTRINES TO ELIMINATE, REDUCE, OR APPORTION DAMAGES

§ 18:1 Introduction

| § | 18:2  | Statutes of limitations                                                                          |
|---|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| § | 18:3  | —Determining the applicable limitations period                                                   |
| § | 18:4  | —Accrual of claims                                                                               |
| § | 18:5  | —Computation of time                                                                             |
| § | 18:6  | —Application to other pleadings; relation back of amendments                                     |
| § | 18:7  | —Tolling                                                                                         |
| § | 18:8  | Ante litem notice for certain claims against                                                     |
|   |       | governmental entities                                                                            |
| _ | 18:9  | Statutes of repose                                                                               |
| _ | 18:10 | Insufficient service of process                                                                  |
| _ | 18:11 | —Diligence in perfecting service                                                                 |
| _ | 18:12 | Assumption of risk                                                                               |
| _ | 18:13 | —Elements                                                                                        |
| - | 18:14 | —Applicability                                                                                   |
| - | 18:15 | —Injuries from space flight participation                                                        |
| - | 18:16 | Joint and several liability and apportionment of fault                                           |
| § | 18:17 | Contributory negligence and assumption of the risk distinguished from modified comparative fault |
| § | 18:18 | Modified comparative fault                                                                       |
| § | 18:19 | Last clear chance                                                                                |
| § | 18:20 | Avoidance of consequences of defendant's negligence                                              |
| § | 18:21 | Sudden emergency                                                                                 |
| § | 18:22 | Legal accident                                                                                   |
| § | 18:23 | Act of God                                                                                       |
| § | 18:24 | Contractual exculpatory provisions                                                               |
| § | 18:25 | Exculpatory provisions in contracts—Lease provisions                                             |
| § | 18:26 | Settlement agreements                                                                            |
| § | 18:27 | Lack of standing due to invalid assignment of certain tort claims                                |
| § | 18:28 | Judicial estoppel                                                                                |
| § | 18:29 | Indemnity—Definition and general concepts                                                        |
| § | 18:30 | —Contracts indemnifying for one's own negligence                                                 |
| 8 | 18:31 | Failure to mitigate damages                                                                      |
|   | 18:32 | Workers' compensation as exclusive remedy                                                        |
|   | 18:33 | Qualified immunity for certain persons engaged in equine, livestock, or llama activities         |
|   |       |                                                                                                  |

#### **CHAPTER 19. REMEDIES**

- § 19:1 Introduction
- § 19:2 General and special damages defined
- § 19:3 Awards of general damages for distress, discomfort, or pain and suffering and their review
- § 19:4 Awards of special damages and their review

| § 19:5 | One satisfaction or recovery for each compensable |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------|
|        | harm                                              |
| § 19:6 | Attorney's fees                                   |
| § 19:7 | Unjust enrichment as a remedy, not a tort         |
| § 19:8 | Injunctions                                       |

#### **Table of Laws and Rules**

**Table of Cases** 

Index