

Research Exercise #1
(due October 10, 2003)

Part A (Background and Commentary Sources): Your client wishes to file a lawsuit against his physician. One day last month he had an appointment with the physician at 10:30 am, but was forced to sit in the waiting room until 3:45 pm because her schedule was overbooked and she squeezed in several more patients without appointments.

1. List some factual and legal concepts (including synonyms, antonyms, and broader and narrower terms) that might help you research the above scenario.

2. Consult a law dictionary to look up one of the legal concepts that you listed above. Write out (or briefly summarize) the definition that you found.

3. Formulate a statement of the main issue raised by this scenario. (Include both the relevant legal and factual concepts; try to write it in the same style that you would use for a “question presented” in an objective memorandum.)

4. Using one of the major national legal encyclopedias (*American Jurisprudence 2d* or *Corpus Juris Secundum*), locate information relevant to the scenario. Briefly describe below the process you used and what kind of information you found. (For example, indicate the concepts that you looked up, whether you used the index or started with the main part of the encyclopedia, the title of the article/topic that you found most useful, whether there was relevant information in the pocket part, what kind of law appears to govern—e.g., state vs. federal, statutory vs. common law, etc.)

5. Using one of the major legal periodicals indices (*Index to Legal Periodicals* or *Current Law Index*), find an article published in an academic law review that appears to be relevant to the scenario, or at least peripherally related to it. (Make sure that the article appears in an academic law review or journal that is published by a law school. Look at a volume of the publication itself if you are not sure about this—most academic law reviews share a similar format.) Write the citation to the article below; include the citation information that appears in the index, and don't worry about citation format.

Part B (Digests and Reporters): You are researching the following issue of state tort law: Is a person who prevents others from leaving a room by physically blocking the main door liable for false imprisonment, if the only other exit is a window that leads to a fire escape?

1. Choose a state other than Illinois to use for this part of the assignment.

Indicate the state here: _____

2. Locate a digest that contains classified case annotations (headnotes) of decisions of that state's courts. Disregard any references to federal court decisions or cases from other states. Give the title of the digest below (e.g., *Illinois Digest 2d*).

3. Try to locate state court decisions relevant to the above issue. Start with the descriptive-word index that appears at the end of the digest to find potentially relevant digest topics and key numbers, then look up those topics and key numbers in the main part of the digest. Once you have found some annotations that seem to be on point, list the citations (as they appear in the digest) for two potentially relevant cases below, along with the digest topics and key numbers where you found them. If you can't find any cases that are directly on point, just list two of the closest ones that you were able to find.

Citation #1: _____

Digest topic: _____ Key number: _____

Citation #2: _____

Digest topic: _____ Key number: _____

4. Look up one of the cases you listed above, then write a complete citation to the case below, in ALWD form. Include a pinpoint reference to a relevant page of the case.
