Contents

Preface .................................................. iii
About Street Law, Inc. ................................. xviii
Street Law Supporters ................................. xix

UNIT 1 Introduction to Law and the Legal System 2

Chapter 1 What Is Law? .................................. 4
  Law and Values ........................................ 5
  Human Rights .......................................... 8
  Balancing Rights With Responsibilities .......... 12
  Kinds of Laws ......................................... 13
  Our Constitutional Framework ..................... 15

Chapter 2 Lawmaking ................................. 19
  Legislatures ............................................ 19
  Agencies ............................................... 24
  Courts ................................................ 26
  International Lawmaking .......................... 26

Chapter 3 Advocacy .................................... 29
  The Art of Advocacy ................................ 29
  Lobbying .............................................. 31
  Voting ................................................ 34
  Campaign Finance Reform ........................ 38

Chapter 4 Settling Disputes ......................... 40
  Methods for Solving Disputes ..................... 41

Chapter 5 The Court System ........................ 46
  Trial Courts ......................................... 46
  Appeals Courts ..................................... 51
  State and Federal Court Systems ............... 52
Chapter 10 Crimes Against Property ........................................ 115
  Arson ........................................ 116
  Vandalism .................................. 116
  Larceny .................................. 116
  Embezzlement ............................. 119
  Robbery .................................. 119
  Extortion .................................. 119
  Burglary .................................. 119
  Forgery .................................. 121
  Receiving Stolen Property .............. 121
  Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle ........ 121
  Cybercrime ................................ 122

Chapter 11 Defenses ......................................................... 126
  No Crime Has Been Committed ........... 126
  Defendant Did Not Commit the Crime  127
  Defendant Committed the Act, but it
    Was Excusable or Justifiable .......... 127
  Defendant Committed the Act, but Is
    Not Criminally Responsible .......... 128

Chapter 12 Criminal Justice Process:
  The Investigation ........................................ 133
  Arrest ........................................ 134
  Search and Seizure ............................ 140
  Interrogations and Confessions ............ 152
## Chapter 13  Criminal Justice Process: Proceedings Before Trial  155
- Booking and Initial Appearance  155
- Bail and Pretrial Release  157
- Information  158
- Preliminary Hearing  160
- Grand Jury  160
- Felony Arraignment and Pleas  161
- Pretrial Motions  161
- Plea Bargaining  163

## Chapter 14  Criminal Justice Process: The Trial  166
- Right to Trial by Jury  166
- Right to a Speedy and Public Trial  168
- Right to Compulsory Process and to Confront Witnesses  169
- Freedom From Self-Incrimination  170
- Right to an Attorney  170
- Criminal Appeals  171

## Chapter 15  Criminal Justice Process: Sentencing and Corrections  173
- Sentencing Options  174
- Purposes of Punishment  176
- Parole  177
- Capital Punishment  178
- Corrections  183
Chapter 16 Juvenile Justice ........................................... 187
  History and Overview of Juvenile Courts ..................... 187
  Status Offenses ...................................................... 190
  Juvenile Justice Today .............................................. 193

Chapter 17 Law and Terrorism ..................................... 204
  The Law in Times of War ............................................. 205
  Surveillance and Searches .......................................... 206
  Detention, Interrogations, and Torture ......................... 208

UNIT 3 Torts .................................................................. 212

Chapter 18 Torts: A Civil Wrong .................................... 214
  The Idea of Liability .................................................. 215
  The Idea of Torts: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow ......... 218
  Types of Torts .......................................................... 219
  Taking Your Case to Court ......................................... 221
  Insurance ................................................................... 225

Chapter 19 Intentional Torts .......................................... 232
  Types of Damages ...................................................... 233
  Torts That Injure Persons .......................................... 234
  Torts That Harm Property ......................................... 240
  Defenses to Intentional Torts ....................................... 250

Chapter 20 Negligence ............................................... 253
  Elements of Negligence ............................................. 254
  Duty and Breach ....................................................... 254
  Causation ................................................................ 258
  Damages .................................................................. 259
  Defenses to Negligence Suits ....................................... 260

Chapter 21 Strict Liability ............................................ 264
  Dangerous Activities .................................................. 265
  Animals .................................................................... 266
  Defective Products ...................................................... 267
  Defenses to Strict Liability ......................................... 269

Chapter 22 Torts and Public Policy ................................. 270
  Tort Reform ................................................................ 271
UNIT 4 Consumer and Housing Law 274

Chapter 23 Contracts 276
- Elements of a Contract 276
- Minors and Contracts 278
- Written and Oral Contracts 279
- Illegal Contracts 279
- Breach of Contract 281

Chapter 24 Warranties 283
- Express Warranties 284
- Implied Warranties 286
- Disclaimers 288

Chapter 25 Credit and Other Financial Services 289
- The Basics About Bank Accounts 290
- An Introduction to Credit 294
- Paying for College 299
- The Cost of Credit 300
- What Lenders Want to Know. 304
- What If You Are Denied Credit? 305
- Default and Collection Practices 306
Chapter 26  Deceptive Sales Practices .......................... 310
Telemarketing Sales ................................................. 310
Door-to-Door Sales .................................................. 312
Advertising and the Consumer ................................. 312
Bait and Switch ....................................................... 316
Mail-Order Sales ..................................................... 317
Internet Commerce ................................................... 320
Repairs and Estimates ............................................... 321

Chapter 27  Becoming a Smart Consumer ......................... 323
Influences on Consumers ........................................... 323
Consumer Protection ............................................... 326
Protecting Your Rights as a Consumer ........................ 328
Direct Action by Consumers ....................................... 338
Taking Your Case to Court ......................................... 338

Chapter 28  Cars and the Consumer ............................... 343
Buying a Car ............................................................ 343

Chapter 29  Housing and the Consumer ........................... 349
Leases: A Special Kind of Contract ............................. 350
Landlord-Tenant Negotiations .................................... 352
Homelessness: Is There a Right to Housing? ................. 366

Unit 5  Family Law ......................................................... 368

Chapter 30  Law and the American Family ....................... 370
Law From Birth to Death ............................................. 370
What Is a Family? ....................................................... 372
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 31</th>
<th>Marriage</th>
<th>375</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Getting Married</td>
<td>375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal Aspects of Marriage</td>
<td>377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common-Law Marriage</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Financial Responsibilities</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Property Ownership</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Decisions in a Marriage</td>
<td>383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spouse Abuse</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal Issues for Single People in Nontraditional Relationships</td>
<td>390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Same-Sex Partners</td>
<td>391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 32</td>
<td>Parents and Children</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Responsibilities Between Parents and Children</td>
<td>394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Abuse and Neglect</td>
<td>402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 33</td>
<td>Foster Care and Adoption</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foster Care</td>
<td>406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adoption</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 34</td>
<td>Separation, Divorce, and Custody</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marriage Problems</td>
<td>413</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Separation and Divorce</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child Custody</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alimony, Property Division, and Child Support</td>
<td>421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stepparents</td>
<td>424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 35</td>
<td>Government Support for Families and Individuals</td>
<td>425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic Benefits for Individuals and Families</td>
<td>426</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Health Benefits</td>
<td>431</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Educational Benefits</td>
<td>433</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix C

**Unit 6: Individual Rights and Liberties**

**Chapter 36** Introduction to Constitutional Law  
Amendments to the Constitution  
Basic Constitutional Law Principles

**Chapter 37** Freedom of Speech  
The Importance of Freedom of Speech  
Obscenity  
Defamation  
Commercial Speech  
Fighting Words, Offensive Speakers, and Hostile Audiences  
Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions  
Symbolic Speech  
Vagueness and Overinclusive Laws

**Chapter 38** Freedom of the Press  
Prohibiting Publication  
Denying the Press Access to Information  
Requiring the Press to Disclose Information

**Chapter 39** Expression in Special Places  
The First Amendment in Public Schools  
The First Amendment in Prisons and the Military

**Chapter 40** Freedom of Religion  
The Establishment Clause  
The Free Exercise Clause

**Chapter 41** Due Process  
Substantive Due Process  
Procedural Due Process

**Chapter 42** The Right to Privacy  
Privacy in the Home and at School  
Information Gathering and Privacy  
Reproductive Rights and Privacy

**Chapter 43** Discrimination  
What Is Discrimination?  
Discrimination Based on Race  
Discrimination Based on National Origin and Citizenship Status