

Mendik Library
Haunted Halloween Info Hunt Questions, 2017

1. Beware of the chainsaw carrying maniac.

In 2015, Scott Griffin appealed a California trial court decision granting Defendant Haunted Hotel Inc.'s motion for summary judgment. Mr. Griffin sued Haunted Hotel alleging negligence and assault after he was injured while fleeing from an actor chasing him with a chainsaw at an outdoor haunted house. Unfortunately for Mr. Griffin, the California appellate court affirmed the lower court's decision finding that "being chased within the physical confines of The Haunted Trail by a chainsaw carrying maniac is a fundamental part and inherent risk of [the] amusement." Provide the citation to the California Court of Appeal decision.

- ⇒ Log into [Westlaw](#)
- ⇒ From the Browse Menu, select *State Materials* and *California*
- ⇒ Under *Cases* select *California Courts of Appeal*
- ⇒ Select *Advanced* next to the search bar
- ⇒ In the Party Name field, type: **Griffin & "Haunted Hotel"** and run the search

Answer:

2. Halloween is known for ghosts, goblins and...lawsuits?

Find the *Bloomberg News* article discussing the prevalence of copyright infringement cases involving Halloween costumes, including a recently filed lawsuit by a costume manufacturer alleging infringement of its copyrighted "banana design" for its banana costume. What are the other costumes the article describes as having been the subject of similar lawsuits?

- ⇒ Log into [Bloomberg Law](#)
- ⇒ Select *Browse All Content* from the top left
- ⇒ Select *News* then *News Search*
- ⇒ Next to Sources, select *Browse Full List*
- ⇒ Select *Bloomberg* then select *Bloomberg News*
- ⇒ Select *Hide Full List*
- ⇒ Type the following in the keyword field: **banana costume and copyright**
- ⇒ Run the search

Answer:

3. "I ain't buying no haunted house!"

In the early 1990s, a house buyer sued to rescind a purchase after learning the house was said to be possessed by poltergeists. Find the case in which the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, ruled the house haunted as a matter of law.

- ⇒ Go to the library webpage and find the Electronic Resources quadrant
- ⇒ Select *More Options* then select *Fastcase*
- ⇒ Under "Start a New Search," click on *Advanced Caselaw Search*
- ⇒ Next to Search Type, select *Natural Language*
- ⇒ Under "Select Jurisdictions," select *Individual Jurisdictions*
- ⇒ Select the + next to State Supreme and Appeals Courts
- ⇒ Select *New York*
- ⇒ Type **possess poltergeist haunted** in the search field
- ⇒ Run the search

Answer:

4. Something Wicked This Way Comes.

With Halloween come witches (and pumpkins, of course!). In his article, *Something Wicked This Way Comes: A History of Witch Hunts*, Associate Librarian and Professor of Legal Research Michael Roffer writes about the role the legal system played in historic and modern day "witch hunts." After locating the article, provide the names of three of the five "witch hunts" detailed in the article and in Professor Roffer's book from which the article was adapted: *The Law Book: From Hammurabi to the International Criminal Court, 250 Milestones in the History of Law*.

- ⇒ Go to [Lexis Advance](#)
- ⇒ From the Explore Content box, select *Legal News*
- ⇒ Select the *Advanced Search* option above the search bar
- ⇒ Enter the title of the article in the Title field
- ⇒ Select **Search**

Answer:

5. Trick or treating on Capitol Hill.

"All Hallow's Eve — the precursor to Halloween — commemorated the ancient, annual Scottish-Irish observance of the last night before All Hallow's Day . . . Trick or treat is the cry heard in the streets. But it is not the only place we hear that cry. It is October-November — and for Congress, it is the time of smoke, mirrors, sequestration, continuing resolutions, and budget legerdemain." What was the name of the Congresswoman who spoke these words on the floor of the House of Representatives in 1989?

- ⇒ Log into [Bloomberg Law](#)
- ⇒ To the right of the search box, click on *Select Sources*
- ⇒ Click on the arrow next to U.S. Legislative
- ⇒ Click on the arrow next to U.S. Congress
- ⇒ Select *Congressional Record*
- ⇒ In the Keywords field at the top, type "**All Hallow's Eve**" (be sure to use the quotation marks)
- ⇒ Run the search

Answer:

6. Note to self: "Self-Professed Vampire" not a good babysitter.

In a 2008 child custody case, the Arkansas Court of Appeals directed the trial court to reconsider the extensive visitation awarded to the mother, considering that the trial court found the mother unfit due, in part, to the fact that she was living with and allowing her child to be cared for by a "self-professed vampire who actually drinks blood." Provide the citation to this case.

- ⇒ Log into [Lexis Advance](#)
- ⇒ In the search box, select Search: *Everything*
- ⇒ Select *Arkansas* under Jurisdiction
- ⇒ Type **vampire and custody** and run the search

Answer:

YOUR NAME: _____