



## Mendik Library Info Hunt

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Happy April Fool's Day! Here's an opportunity to show that you are no April fool; enter into a drawing to WIN research aids, study guides and cool study tools. Complete this Info Hunt and submit your answer sheet by Tuesday, April 3rd at 5:00 pm to enter the drawing. The official raffle drum for completed entries is located at the Reference Desk in the Library. The drawing will take place outside the library entrance on April 3 at 5:30 PM. Although you need not be present to win, winners in attendance will have the opportunity to select their prize, and may even receive bonus prizes. Absentee winners will be contacted by email.*

1. On March 27, 1991, The San Francisco Bay Guardian issued its weekly edition of the paper, including a specially titled "April Fool" parody section. Adam Sparks, one of the "targets" of the parody, sued The Guardian the following year for libel. The Guardian sought summary judgment on the grounds that Sparks is a local celebrity and "that the parody section of the paper was an obvious April Fool's joke which could not be taken as fact."

While the Superior Court denied the motion, the California Court of Appeals reversed. The Court found no defamation because the parody was not subtle and therefore "the average reader would recognize the April Fool's issue as a parody." In addition to the special labeling of the parody section, what did The Guardian do to indicate that there was something different about this edition of the paper?

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2. In 2011, *The New York Times* reported that the Shelby American Automobile Club in Connecticut had printed a fake front page of *The New York Times*, alleging that Senator Charles E. Schumer was proposing a federal tax on specialty automobiles to close the federal deficit. Hundreds of classic car lovers were angered by the "proposed tax" and began to organize against the fictitious threat. (This article appeared next to another fake article, a study showing that recreational polka dancers display lower rates of colon cancer, perhaps because of their diet of kielbasa and stuffed cabbage.) Provide a citation to the article.

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(over)



3. In *Fuerschbach v. Southwest Airlines*, a New Mexico case, an employee sued her employer, her supervisor, the city of Albuquerque, and police officers after two police officers handcuffed and “arrested” the employee as part of a prank. Pranking was part of a Southwest Airlines tradition celebrating the end of an employee’s probationary period with the company. Provide the citation for this case and name the Albuquerque statute under which the plaintiff sued.

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4. In 1968, Judge George Rose Smith authored an opinion in a fictitious case, *J.R. Poisson v. Etienne d’Avril*, in which the Arkansas Supreme Court appeared to hold that the legislature had repealed all statutory law in Arkansas. Surprisingly, many attorneys, as well as the publisher of the unofficial reports, “bit ‘the April Fish.’” Locate a law review article that discusses this opinion, and find within the article the title of another fictitious opinion authored by Judge Smith.

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5. In *In Re Marriage of Mosley*, a husband filed a post-divorce motion to modify spousal and child support based on a change in his financial circumstances. On April 1, 2010, the judge signed an order in the husband’s favor. California Rules provide either a 60- or a 180-day timeline to file for an appeal, depending on the facts. On October 1, 193 days after the order was signed, the wife appealed the order. When the Court of Appeals issued an order indicating that it was “considering dismissing the appeal because it appears that the notice of appeal is untimely,” the wife filed a brief in response. How did the wife rebut the presumption her appeal was **not** untimely filed even though it was more than 180 days after the judge signed the order?

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