

Mendik Library  
Haunted Halloween Info Hunt Questions, 2014

1. Menacing aliens beware.

Find the 2001 Maryland Court of Appeals case that, while explaining the doctrine of imperfect self-defense, provided the following example: "If, however, on Halloween, the defendant confronts a costumed stranger on the street and shoots him in the honestly held belief that the stranger is a menacing alien from Mars intent upon his immediate destruction, the jury is not entitled to judge the reasonableness of the defendant's conduct on the assumption that the victim was, in fact, an alien from Mars intent on harming the defendant."

- Go to *Google Scholar*
- Select: Case law
- Select: Select Courts
- Select: Maryland Court of Appeals
- Search: "**menacing alien**"

Answer:

2. "Your costume is ...[NSFW]."

In *Taylor v. Renfro Corp.*, a Federal District Court upheld the denial of an employer's motion for summary judgment in a sexual harassment action arising out of a supervisor's comments about employees' Halloween costumes. What's the citation to the case?

- Log into *Lexis Advance*
- In the search box, select "Filters"
- Select "Federal District Courts" under Jurisdiction
- Type **Taylor v. Renfro** and run the search

Answer:

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

In the early 1990s, a house buyer sued to rescind the 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.

- Log into *WestlawNext*
- Using the drop-down to the right of the search field, make sure your jurisdiction is set to New York
- Type **possess poltergeist haunted** in the search field
- Select the first hit under Cases

Answer:

4. "Where his soul's gone or how it fares nobody knows and nobody cares."

Is insulting one's neighbors on Halloween tombstone decorations constitutionally protected speech, or is it the sort of abusive speech that would tend to incite a breach of the peace and is thereby prohibited?

Find and cite the Seventh Circuit case deciding the issue.

- Go to the library webpage and find *the All Subscription Resources list*.
- Click on F to jump to that portion of the alphabetical list
- Click on *Fastcase* to open the database
- Under Start a New Search, click on *Advanced Caselaw Search*
- Next to Search Type, select *Natural Language*
- Under Select Jurisdictions, select *All Federal Appellate*
- In the search box, type **Halloween tombstone**
- Open the first hit

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*
- Click on the Legislative & Regulatory tab
- Click on Search Legislative
- Click the + to the left of U.S. Congress
- Click on Congressional Record
- In the search box, type **"All Hallow's Eve"** (be sure to use the quotation marks)
- Limit by date: From the "Date Range" drop down menu, select "Date Range"
- Limit by the following date range: 01/01/1989 – 12/31/1989
- Run the search

Answer:

6. "I'm here for the party!"

Vampires, dragons and Egyptian kings sound like good Halloween party costume options. But it's also the title of a book on gangs in post-war New York. Who wrote it?

- Go to the library's online catalog
- Click the drop-down next to Search and select *Title*
- Type **Vampires, Dragons, and Egyptian Kings** and run the search

Answer:

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_