

Mendik Library
Haunted Halloween Info Hunt Questions, 2015

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. Fight over Fright and Flight.

In the 1996 case of Mays v. Gretna Athletic Boosters, Inc., the Louisiana Fifth Circuit Court of Appeal found a haunted house operator was not liable when Plaintiff became frightened and ran face first into a black visqueen covered cinder block wall. Provide the citation to this case.

- Log into *Lexis Advance*
- In the search box, select Search: Everything
- Select "Louisiana" under Jurisdiction
- Type **Mays v. Gretna Athletic Boosters** 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
- Review the results 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? Using Fastcase, find and cite the Seventh Circuit decision on this 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**

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* and 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

Answer:

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

Provide the citation to the Texas Bar Journal article entitled "Creepy Cases," that outlines the Halloween costume mishaps and tombstone displays that resulted in litigation.

- Go to the library's online catalog
- Click the drop-down next to *Search*, select Title and type **Texas Bar Journal**; run the search
- Click on Texas Bar Journal (Internet)
- Under "Connect to," click on Online resource (Access limited to current members of the NYLS community.)
- Click on LexisNexis Lawschool
- Use "Search Within Results" on the left side and type: "**Creepy Cases**"

Answer:

YOUR NAME: _____