

Mendik Library  
Haunted Halloween Info Hunt Questions, 2018

**1. “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 this issue.

- ⇒ Log into [Lexis Advance](#)
- ⇒ In the search box, select Search: Everything
- ⇒ Select “7<sup>th</sup> Circuit” under *Jurisdiction*
- ⇒ Type **Halloween tombstone** and run the search

Answer:

**2. 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:

**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?

- ⇒ Find [HeinOnline](#) in the *Electronic Resources* box of the Library's homepage
- ⇒ Select the *U.S. Congressional Documents* database
- ⇒ Select *Congressional Record* then, from the list of sources, select *Congressional Record* again
- ⇒ In the "search this title" box, search "All hallow's eve"
- ⇒ Refine your search on the left side by date

Answer:

#### 6. 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 the library webpage and find the *All Subscription Resources* list and select [Google Scholar](#)
- ⇒ Select *Case law* and *Select courts*
- ⇒ Select *Maryland Court of Appeals*
- ⇒ Search "menacing alien"

Answer:

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