





A monthly newsletter from McGraw-Hill Education

January 2017 Volume 8, Issue 6

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#### Dear Professor,

Happy New Year! Welcome to McGraw-Hill Education's January 2017 issue of Proceedings, a newsletter designed specifically with you, the Business Law educator, in mind. Volume 8, Issue 6 of Proceedings incorporates "hot topics" in business law, video suggestions, an ethical dilemma, teaching tips, and a "chapter key" cross-referencing the January 2017 newsletter topics with the various McGraw-Hill Education business law textbooks.

This month's newsletter is the second (and final) newsletter devoted exclusively to the potential legal and policy implications of the upcoming Donald J. Trump presidency.

Please note that this newsletter is not designed to favor or oppose presidentelect Trump, nor is it designed to favor or oppose his political beliefs or the potential laws and policies that may be implemented during his administration. Despite the fact that the 2016 election was politically divisive and polarizing, Donald Trump is our new president-elect. That is newsworthy, particularly in light of a newsletter that covers the legal and policy implications of government decision-making. The sources cited in this newsletter include The Wall Street Journal, CNN, Fox News, CBS News, and the Heritage Foundation. As I know you always do, please use this newsletter as an opportunity to develop your students' critical thinking skills. Remember that it is our role as educators not to tell students what to think; instead, we must teach them how to think.

You will find a wide range of topics/issues in this publication, including:

- 1. Concern in the state of Texas regarding potential modification or repeal of the North American Free Trade Agreement during Donald Trump's presidency;
- 2. President-elect Trump's opinion regarding whether flag-burning is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution;
- 3. Renewed debate, in light of the upcoming Trump presidency, regarding whether the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) should be opened for oil exploration;
- 4. Videos related to a) China's concern regarding president-elect Trump's recent conversation with Taiwanese leader Tsai Ying-wen and b) Carrier's







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decision, purportedly due to the insistence of president-elect Trump, to maintain part of the company's business operations in Indiana;

- 5. An "ethical dilemma" related to president-elect Trump's recent claim that '(t)he President can't have a conflict of interest"; and
- 6. "Teaching tips" related to Article 2 ("Trump Takes Aim at First Amendment") and the Ethical Dilemma ("Trump's Claim That 'The President Can't Have a Conflict of Interest") of the newsletter.

Here's to an enjoyable, productive, prosperous and safe new year!

Jeffrey D. Penley, J.D. Catawba Valley Community College Hickory, North Carolina







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#### Of Special Interest

This section of the newsletter covers three (3) topics:

- 1) Concern in the state of Texas regarding potential modification or repeal of the North American Free Trade Agreement during Donald Trump's presidency;
- 2) President-elect Trump's opinion regarding whether flagburning is protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution; and
- 3) Renewed debate, in light of the upcoming Trump presidency, regarding whether the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) should be opened for oil exploration.

### Hot Topics in Business Law

Article 1: "In Texas, Business Owners Hope Donald Trump's NAFTA Rhetoric Is Just Talk"

http://www.wsj.com/articles/in-texas-business-owners-hope-donald-trumps-nafta-rhetoric-is-just-talk-1480349275

According to the article, when Rick Chevalier wants to ship raw materials from Mexico to his company's coffee plant in Canada, all it takes is a quick email.

As U.S. distribution manager for Mother Parkers Tea & Coffee, Mr. Chevalier arranges a single trucking or train company to whisk the materials, used for coffee-machine capsules, from the Mexican state of Querétaro up through the U.S. and into Ontario in Canada.

Because of the North American Free Trade Agreement, what was once a seven-day trip might now take only five and saves his company money, he said.

"It's free trade that simplifies it," said Mr. Chevalier, who works from Fort Worth, where Mother Parkers has a roasting plant with 300 employees.

Far from abandoned mills and factories of the industrial Midwest, where simmering anger over trade deals and jobs shipped overseas helped catapult Donald Trump to victory, Texas' export economy is powered by NAFTA. As a candidate, the president-elect blasted the 22-year-old agreement, which allows goods to move across the borders of Mexico, the U.S. and Canada without tariffs, and said he would like to revamp it.

That sets up a challenge for the president-elect, who must weigh his campaign promises to right the Rust Belt's crumbling factory economy without slowing the Texas trade juggernaut. Many of the businesspeople here who are fretting about what might become of NAFTA supported Mr. Trump in the election, including Mr. Chevalier of the coffee company, and say they are hopeful he won't follow through on his threats, pointing to his experience as a businessman.







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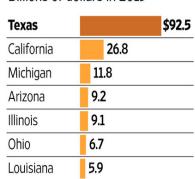
"How are you going to go in and end a trade agreement that has been in place for more than 20 years where the economy of North Texas is so intertwined with the economies of Canada and Mexico?" said S. Kerry Tassopoulos, vice president of government relations for Mary Kay Inc., the Dallasbased cosmetics company, which ships products to Mexico and Canada.

From the booming border city of Laredo to the bustling trading hub of Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas has become the nation's top exporter of goods, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, and Mexico is its biggest customer. Some 382,000 jobs in Texas alone depend on trade with Mexico, according to 2014 data released this month by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a nonpartisan global research group. Goods exported from Texas help support more than a million jobs across the U.S., according to the U.S. Commerce Department.

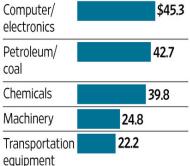
#### **Border Business**

The North American Free Trade Agreement has helped Texas nearly double exports to Mexico since 2000.

#### Texas exports to Mexico Top exporting states to Mexico Billions of dollars in 2015 \$100 billion Texas 75 California Michigan 50 Arizona 25 Illinois Ohio Louisiana 2000



### Texas' top export industries Billions of dollars in 2015



Source: International Trade Administration

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. ENLARGE

Most of those jobs are in the manufacturing sector. According to federal data, Texas' top five exports—key to supporting local jobs—are computer and electronic products, petroleum and coal products, chemicals, machinery and transportation equipment.

"We hope the president-elect will take these benefits into account as he looks at global trade partnerships," said Bill Thornton, chief executive of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, which wants to meet with the new administration over NAFTA.

Even as Texas' economy has struggled during the oil bust, Nafta has helped keep its financial engine humming. Withdrawing from NAFTA "would have potentially disastrous consequences not only for our state, but for the U.S. and also countries around us," said Pam Villarreal, senior fellow and economist at the National Center for Policy Analysis, a Dallas-based free-market think tank.







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At a recent conference in Fort Worth and Dallas hosted by the North American Strategy for Competitiveness, a trade group supporting NAFTA, business leaders and diplomats, including George W. Bush, a former president and Texas governor, stressed the pact's economic footprint throughout the state.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area is home to more than 20 major Mexican businesses and dozens of American businesses with Mexican subsidiaries, according to the Dallas Regional Chamber business group. Smaller metro areas in the state have prospered, too, few more so than Laredo and other smaller cities along the Rio Grande.

"That's our bread and butter. We're a NAFTA town," said Pete Saenz, Laredo's mayor.

Laredo ranks as the nation's third-most important port in total dollar value of trade after Los Angeles and New York, according to U.S. customs data. Some 14,000 trucks and 1,100 rail freight cars cross the river every day between the city and Nuevo Laredo in Mexico, according to Texas state figures.

Since NAFTA took effect in 1994, Laredo's population has grown exponentially to some 270,000 people. New middle-class neighborhoods shoot out in all directions, from the historic riverfront center into mesquite-choked former ranch lands.

The trade in goods crossing the Laredo area's five international bridges—one of which feeds Interstate 35, the so-called NAFTA Highway—contributes about \$52 billion to the state's economy annually, state Comptroller Glenn Hegar, a Republican, said during a visit to the city in November.

That level of commerce—which directly supports jobs in warehouses, transport companies, customs brokers and indirectly in restaurants, hotels and retail—will force the incoming administration to take heed, many here wager.

"We have to wait until the winds die down to see what happens," said J.O. Alvarez Jr., 62, a third generation customs broker and traditionally Republican voter who has seen his family-owned business boom under NAFTA. "People have to realize that the NAFTA Highway is a huge trade going both ways. It means jobs in the States and jobs in Mexico."

Gerry Schwebel, executive vice president of the International Bank of Commerce in Laredo, which helps finance cross-border trade, said renegotiating parts of NAFTA to help struggling communities in other parts of the country wouldn't be such a bad thing—so long as businesses are involved.

"As we talk about the benefits of this relationship, the agreement itself is a framework," said Mr. Schwebel, who supported Mr. Trump. "It wasn't intended be a solution for everyone, and we have to be sensitive to that."







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#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What is the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)?

The North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, is a three-country accord negotiated by the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States that entered into force in January 1994. NAFTA's terms, which were implemented gradually through January 2008, provided for the elimination of most tariffs on products traded among the three countries.

For further information regarding NAFTA, please see the Council on Foreign Relations' web site at <a href="http://www.cfr.org/trade/naftas-economic-impact/p15790">http://www.cfr.org/trade/naftas-economic-impact/p15790</a>

2. Based on the information presented in the article, what effect has NAFTA had on the state of Texas?

As the article indicates, NAFTA has resulted in a substantially greater level of exports from Texas to Mexico; also, Texas is by far the top exporting state to Mexico, at more than triple the level of exports to Mexico compared to California, the second-highest state.

The article does not address the number of jobs in Texas <u>lost</u> to Mexico as a result of NAFTA, and that must be taken into consideration in terms of assessing whether NAFTA is a "net win" for the United States.

3. In your reasoned opinion, is NAFTA good or bad for the United States?

This is an opinion question, so student responses will likely vary.

#### **Article 2: "Trump Takes Aim at First Amendment"**

http://www.cnn.com/2016/11/29/politics/donald-trump-first-amendment/index.html

According to the article, on January 20, 2017, Donald Trump will swear to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution. But judging from his red hot Twitter feed, Trump is already chafing at its constraints.

The President-elect recently called for punishing anyone who burns the American flag by "perhaps" jailing them -- or even stripping them of citizenship. The Twitter broadside revived concerns that the incoming President isn't fully aware of the limits he will face in office or that he may try to eliminate as many curbs as possible.

The early morning blast was classic Trump, picking at an emotive political scar that enlivens his most loyal supporters, hijacking news coverage and forcing everyone in Washington to respond to his own controversial views -- and then wonder if he really means it. It's a tactic familiar from the







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presidential campaign when Trump's mastery at wielding Twitter as a weapon was at the heart of his battle plan that demolished the Bush and Clinton political dynasties.

But the tweet was especially notable because it seemed to look past two Supreme Court rulings that held flag burning is form of free speech protected by the First Amendment. The late Justice Antonin Scalia, who Trump has lauded as a judicial hero and model for his future nominees, was a crucial vote supporting the majority in each case.

The big question is whether Trump's comments, which would be extraordinary coming from any other incoming president, should be interpreted as a sign of intent or simply another example of the unusual way in which he blows off steam so publicly.

"It is pretty remarkable that the President-elect of the United States is calling for penalties, criminal penalties for protected speech," said CNN senior legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin. "Why is he doing this? That is the question. Is he trying to distract attention from something else? I don't know why he would be, his transition seems to be going pretty well. What is the purpose behind this? I don't really get it."

David Axelrod, a CNN political analyst and former strategist for President Barack Obama, encouraged his Twitter followers Tuesday to pay less attention to what Trump says and more to how he behaves.

"Pressing issue of the day? Best to ignore, unless & until it becomes something more than an AM red meat serving from Dr. Trump & Mr. Tweet," Axelrod tweeted.

Still, the spectacle of a President-elect calling for someone to be disowned by their nation for exercising their constitutional rights -- albeit while acting in a way many Americans find distasteful -- is a shocking one.

It is extraordinarily difficult for the federal government to strip a natural born American of their citizenship. Such a move requires an act of will upon the part of the person, such as treason. And given the checks and balances of the political system, it's unlikely that Trump could enact a law corresponding with his tweet that would withstand a court challenge.

Yet one reason Trump's salvos get so much attention is because he has frequently left the impression that as president, he will nudge right up against the Constitution.

His proposal for a ban on Muslim immigration during the campaign -- since watered down -- appeared to conflict with the constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

Some legal analysts, meanwhile, have warned that that the Emoluments clause in the Constitution -- which bars gifts being paid to top officials from foreign governments -- could trip Trump up if he fails to draw a firm line between his global business interests and his administration.







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Trump also sparked alarm when he told journalists at The New York Times this month that "the law is totally on my side, meaning, the President can't have a conflict of interest."

Trump's attacks on news organizations, including CNN and The New York Times, have also worried those who fear he has the First Amendment in his sights. He warned during the campaign that he would "open up" libel laws to make it easier for him to sue news organizations if he was elected president.

But one of the emerging characteristics of Trump's presidential transition that is likely to linger on in his administration is the difficulty in discerning exactly how serious to take his threats and bluster.

Asked by New York Times Chief Executive Officer Mark Thompson in the meeting with the paper's journalists and executives whether he respected the First Amendment, Trump was conciliatory.

"I think you'll be happy," he said. "I think you'll be happy ... I think you'll be O.K. I think you're going to be fine."

Some Democrats, wary of presidential overreach, say there's no choice but to take Trump at his word.

"When do we take Donald Trump seriously? My answer to that question is February 2016, when none of us took him seriously and now he is the President-elect," said Mark Alderman, a Democratic strategist and former Electoral College elector.

"I am done not taking him seriously," said Alderman, who is chairman of Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies. "I have at least learned that lesson. I think everything that the man does has to be taken seriously because he has demonstrated over the last 18 months that he was serious about being nominated."

He added: "He was serious about being elected. It would be a mistake to say he is not serious about governing and serious about what he says about governing."

The White House took Trump's remarks at face value, warning that there should be no infringements on free speech, even though most Americans oppose flag burning.

"The freedom that we all have to express ourselves in the way that we chose to do so is protected by the United States Constitution," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Tuesday. "The need to protect those rights is in place to protect speech and expression not just when we agree with it but also when we find it offensive."

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell parried questions about Trump's comments by framing the constitutional position on flag burning as a decided issue.







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"The Supreme Court has held that activity is a protected First Amendment right, a form of unpleasant speech and in this country, we have a long tradition of respecting unpleasant speech," McConnell said. "I happen to support the Supreme Court's decision on that matter."

Deflecting and ignoring a politically loaded Trump tweet could become a default Republican posture once the President-elect is sworn in. But one top Republican seems to have enough of it already.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, who chairs the Armed Services Committee, told CNN's Manu Raju Tuesday that he doesn't like flag burning, which he sees as an insult to his fellow veterans. But he noted that it has been decreed an act of free speech and wouldn't talk about Trump.

"I have not been commenting on Mr. Trump and I will continue not to comment on Mr. Trump," McCain said. "My time is devoted to trying to make sure this nation is secure, not to comment on every comment of Mr. Trump's."

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Based on United States Supreme Court precedent, why is flag-burning protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution?

According to the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, "Congress shall make no law...prohibiting the freedom of speech..." United States Supreme Court precedent has established that flag-burning is a form of expression, and therefore protected by the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment.

2. As the article notes, former Justice Antonin Scalia was a crucial vote supporting the majority in two United States Supreme Court rulings that flag burning is protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Is this surprising? If so, why?

This is an opinion question, so student responses may vary. Even though Justice Antonin Scalia was known as a conservative justice, he was not bound by political orthodoxy or party affiliation during his time of service on the court (he died in February 2016). To quote an oft-cited maxim, "Justice is blind."

3. What power (if any) does the president of the United States have to determine whether flagburning is protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

Ultimately, the president of the United States does not have the power to rule on constitutional matters. Constitutionality is a matter for the courts (ultimately, the United States Supreme Court) to decide. With that being said, the president does have the "bully pulpit," or the power of persuasion, and this could lead Congress to enact a law regarding a particular issue. Depending on United States Supreme Court vacancies, the president also has the power to nominate justices (whose confirmation is subject to the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate) who might be more inclined to







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support his views. This could possibly influence how the court rules on constitutional matters, particularly if the justices are influenced by political orthodoxy and/or party affiliation.

### Article 3: "Trump's Choices of Cabinet Renew Debate over Opening Alaska's Arctic Refuge to Oil Drilling"

http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2016/12/15/trumps-choices-cabinet-renew-debate-over-opening-alaskas-arctic-refuge-to-oil-drilling.html

According to the article, oil companies who have long coveted an environmentally sensitive Alaskan refuge may be on the verge of tapping its huge reserves under a Donald Trump administration that has signaled its support for fossil fuels.

Trump's nomination of Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt to lead the Environmental Protection Agency and Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson as secretary of state -- along with rumors that he will choose Montana Representative Ryan Zinke as Interior Secretary -- have buoyed the hopes of many energy industry insiders and Alaskan lawmakers who have seen attempts to drill the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge thwarted during President Obama's time in office.

"This is exactly the time we need to start developing the area," Nick Loris, an energy expert at the Washington D.C.-based conservative think tank, the Heritage Foundation, said. "It will take more of a hurdle given what Obama has done, but it can be undone."

At the heart of the battle over ANWR – a 19 million-acre tract of land flanked by the Brooks Range to the south, the Beaufort Sea to the north and Canada's Yukon province to the east – is a section of the refuge called the coastal plain, or section 1002.

On one side of the debate: Alaska's Republican lawmakers and a fossil fuel industry that sees the estimated 7.7 billion barrels of oil under the coastal plain a boon to the state's flagging economy that has suffered from low oil prices on the global market and a decline in crude flowing through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

On the other side: Environmental groups and the indigenous Gwich'in people, who consider the coastal plain sacred land and say oil drilling would ruin a fragile habitat for gray wolves, polar bears, porcupine caribou and more than 200 species of migratory birds.

"ANWR is a national treasure and an amazing piece of land," Nicole Whittington-Evans, the Wilderness Society's Alaska regional director, said. "It is not a place where oil and gas development should be allowed."

The refuge was created in 1980 as part of comprehensive public-lands legislation signed into law by President Jimmy Carter that put more than 100 million federal acres in Alaska under conservation







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protection. Lawmakers at the time recognized the potential for oil drilling on the coastal plain but they prohibited leasing or other development on the land unless authorized by a future Congress. That is basically where the issue has stood for the past 36 years as Alaskan lawmakers' and oil industry executives' advances have been thwarted in Congress.

In 1995, the Alaskan delegation inserted a provision opening ANWR to development in a budget reconciliation bill, but the bill was vetoed by President Bill Clinton. In 2005, despite having the Senate, House and White House all in Republican hands, a push to open ANWR was also unsuccessful as a number of moderate Republicans voted against it.

Recently – as global oil prices have dropped to just more than \$50 per barrel – oil companies have backed away from pushing to open ANWR and instead focused on their existing projects. Royal Dutch Shell in 2015 indefinitely canceled plans to drill in the Arctic and an oil industry consortium that included Exxon Mobil and BP recently suspended its arctic exploration program in the Beaufort Sea.

In the same year, the Obama administration made an official recommendation to Congress to designate 12.3 million acres of ANWR – including the coastal plain – as wilderness, the highest level of protection available to public lands and a move, that if approved by Congress, would be the largest ever wilderness designation since Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964.

Parts of ANWR are already designated as wilderness, but not the coastal plain and Obama's recommendation would prevent any road or industrial development on the land.

"Designating vast areas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as Wilderness reflects the significance this landscape holds for America and its wildlife," outgoing Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement. "Just like Yosemite or the Grand Canyon, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of our nation's crown jewels and we have an obligation to preserve this spectacular place for generations to come."

The Republican-controlled Congress has so far ignored the president's recommendation and the future of the refuge looks to be decided under the Trump administration – an idea that is very appealing to those in the Alaska congressional delegation.

"We have been working to advance ANWR for decades now. And we need to have the support of the Congress," Murkowski told the Alaska Dispatch News on election night. "But if the numbers continue for us with the Senate and you have a president who has expressed support, I will be chairing the energy committee again, and I am going to look to push that early on."

A Trump administration and a Republican-held Congress, however, doesn't mean that oil drilling in ANWR is a guarantee. GOP senators need 60 votes to get closure on any legislation allowing drilling in ANWR and to prevent a Democratic filibuster, but there are only 52 Republicans in the Senate.







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"To open up ANWR you need to get 60 votes, so the question is 'can you get eight Democrats to vote for it?" Robert McNally, the president of the Rapidan Group, an energy consulting firm, and former official in the George W. Bush administration, said.

McNally added: "There may be a push to do it, but it might be better to wait for 2018 and see if they can get a filibuster-proof Congress."

The other option for Alaskan lawmakers – and a scenario that increasingly concerns environmental groups – is repeating their move in 1995 and attaching an ANWR provision to a budget reconciliation bill. This only requires 51 votes, cannot be filibustered and, unlike in 1995, won't face the threat of a veto by a Democratic president.

"Republicans may try to put drilling in the Arctic into the budget reconciliation bill," Athan Manuel, the director of the land protection program at the Sierra Club, said. "So we have our work cut out for us to win over some Republicans."

In his remaining time in office, Obama does have one card up his sleeve that could permanently halt any efforts to open ANWR to oil drilling – declare the region a national monument.

The 1906 Antiquities Act allows presidents to designate monuments as a way to protect natural, cultural or scientific features on certain pieces of land. Since its enactment, 15 presidents have designated more than 150 monuments with Obama using the law 25 times – most recently to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Monument in Hawaii.

There has been little indication, however, that Obama plans to declare ANWR a monument in his final weeks in office and environmental groups say they are gearing up for a clash with the incoming administration.

"We've pushed the Obama administration to name the coastal area a national monument, but that probably won't happen," Manuel said. "So we're bracing for a fight."

#### ANWR Facts

- Refuge was created in 1980 under Carter Administration
- Encompasses 19 million acres along Alaska's northeastern border with Canada
- Home to polar bears, porcupine caribou, gray wolves and over 200 species of migratory birds
- There are an estimated 7.7 billion barrels of oil under ANWR's coastal plain

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Alaska is often referred to as the "last frontier" of the United States. Does frontier matter? Why or why not?







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This is an opinion question, so student responses to this question may vary. Some students may feel strongly that immediate access to land and energy resources matters most, while others may believe that in light of environmental preservation and future generations, the "last frontier" should be "off-limits."

#### 2. What is the 1906 Antiquities Act?

As the article indicates, the 1906 Antiquities Act allows presidents to designate monuments as a way to protect natural, cultural or scientific features on certain pieces of land. Since its enactment, 15 presidents have designated more than 150 monuments, with President Barack Obama using the law 25 times – most recently to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Monument in Hawaii.

3. In your reasoned opinion, should President Barack Obama, in the last days of his presidency, declare the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) a national monument? Why or why not?

This is an opinion question, so student responses may vary. As indicated in response to Article 3, Discussion Question Number 1, some students may feel strongly that immediate access to land and energy resources matters most, while others may believe that in light of environmental preservation and future generations, the "last frontier" should be "off-limits."





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### Video Suggestions

Video 1: "New China Concerns after Trump Taiwan Call"

http://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-talks-to-taiwanese-leader-inbreak-with-precedent/

Note: In addition to the video, please see the following article, also included at the above-referenced internet address:

"Trump Talks to Taiwanese Leader, in Break with Precedent"

According to the article, President-elect Donald Trump spoke on the phone with Taiwanese leader Tsai Ying-wen recently, the Trump transition team announced, in a break with precedent.

Mr. Trump is the first president-elect to talk to the Taiwanese president since the U.S. cut formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan in 1979. China regards the island as a renegade province, although Taiwan has operated as an independent state since the conclusion of the Chinese civil war.

The transition team said that during their conversation, Tsai congratulated Mr. Trump, and the two "noted the close economic, political and security ties" between Taiwan and the U.S. Mr. Trump also congratulated Tsai on her victory earlier this year.

The modern Taiwanese state was founded by anti-communist Chinese general Chiang Kai-shek in 1949, and formally styles itself the Republic of China. Since then, war between the two nations has nearly broken out on several occasions, and the current Taiwanese government favors formal independence from China.

It is unclear whether Mr. Trump's conversation with the Taiwanese president reflects a change of policy towards China. Nevertheless, experts say the phone call threatens to inflame U.S. relations with Beijing, which have been particularly rocky in recent years due to expansionist Chinese policies, particularly with regard to the South China Sea.

A White House spokesman said there is "no change to our longstanding policy on cross-Strait issues."







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"We remain firmly committed to our 'one China' policy based on the three Joint Communiques and the Taiwan Relations Act. Our fundamental interest is in peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations," the White House said.

After the news broke, Mr. Trump responded with two tweets about the phone call and a comment on U.S. policy on Taiwan.

"The Chinese leadership will see this as a highly provocative action, of historic proportions," Evan Medeiros, a former Asia director at the White House national security council, told the Financial Times, which first reported the call.

"Regardless if it was deliberate or accidental, this phone call will fundamentally change China's perceptions of Trump's strategic intentions for the negative."

The U.S. adopted a "one China" policy after Richard Nixon visited the communist-controlled mainland in 1972. China then became a de facto American ally in the Cold War with the Soviet Union, and is now a major trading partner.

Trade with China became a major issue in the 2016 presidential campaign, with Trump repeatedly threatening to install a major tariff on Chinese goods in order to protect American manufacturing.

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Based on information presented in the article, why is China upset that President-elect Donald Trump conversed with Taiwanese leader Tsai Ying-wen?

As indicated in the article, China regards Taiwan as a renegade province, while Taiwan has considers itself an autonomous nation independent from China. China could be concerned that president-elect Trump's conversation with Taiwanese leader Tsai Ying-wen might be a precursor to direct, closer U.S-Taiwan relations.

2. Describe the history of the "one China" policy.

As indicated in the article, the United States adopted a "one China" policy after Richard Nixon visited the communist-controlled mainland in 1972. China then became a de facto American ally in the Cold War with the Soviet Union, and is now a major trading partner.

3. In your reasoned opinion, should China's perception of President-elect Trump's conversation with Taiwanese leader Tsai Ying-wen matter to the United States? Why or why not?

This is an opinion question, so student responses may vary. Do emphasize to students that China is a major trading partner with the United States. For example, according to Boeing, 150,000 United







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States aviation jobs depend on trade with China. The company delivered nearly 500 Boeing 737 jets in 2015, and one quarter of them went to Chinese airlines, which are serving a growing middle class that is already as large as the United States population. The market could be worth one trillion dollars over the next 20 years (<a href="http://money.cnn.com/2016/12/16/news/boeing-china-jobs-trump/index.html">http://money.cnn.com/2016/12/16/news/boeing-china-jobs-trump/index.html</a>).

#### Video 2: "Trump Touts Carrier Deal before Kicking Off Victory Rally"

http://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-announces-celebrates-carrier-deal-in-indiana/

Note: In addition to the video, please see the following article, also included at the above-referenced internet address:

#### "Donald Trump Celebrates Carrier Deal in Indiana"

According to the article, a triumphant President-elect Donald Trump celebrated recently the sealing of a deal with air-conditioning manufacturer Carrier that would keep about 1,100 jobs in the United States, halting the company's planned move of its Indianapolis plant to Mexico.

"United Technologies has stepped up," Mr. Trump said, referring to the company that owns Carrier, as he addressed reporters and workers at the Indiana factory. "They're going to spend so much money on renovating this plant."

"Companies are not going to leave the United States anymore without consequences. It's not gonna happen," he vowed, citing plans for his incoming administration to lower taxes and cut regulations. Carrier, in exchange for keeping its factory in the state, agreed to economic incentives negotiated by Vice President-elect Mike Pence (also Indiana's governor): tax breaks of at least \$700,000 a year over the next decade.

During the campaign, Mr. Trump had promised for months that he would hit Carrier with massive tariffs unless it kept its Indianapolis plant up and running. He vowed to ensure those manufacturing jobs stayed in the state.

But in his retelling, the president-elect seemed astonished at the way his campaign promise was received by workers at the plant.

In his recent speech, the president-elect said that he hadn't meant it "quite that way" when he had sworn on the campaign trail that Carrier "will never leave."

He recalled watching a network news piece about Carrier which featured a worker who didn't believe that his job was going away because Mr. Trump had promised it wasn't.







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"And I'm saying to myself, man -- and then they played my statement. And I said 'Carrier will never leave,' but that was a euphemism. I was talking about Carrier like all other companies from here on in...I didn't mean it quite that way."

Mr. Trump began his speech in Indiana -- his first public pronouncement since his Election Night victory address -- touting his election victories in the state during the primary and general election races.

"I got involved because of the love affair I've had -- this has been a very special state to us," he said. He went on to note that some people didn't consider it very "presidential" to pick up the phone and call executives at the company, but Mr. Trump said he did it anyway.

The president-elect recounted his conversation with United Technologies' Greg Hayes: "I said, we gotta sit down and we gotta do something... because we just can't let it happen."

Mr. Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence toured the manufacturing plant ahead of the speech.

Pence introduced the president-elect at the Carrier factory, praising the company's decision to stay in the U.S. to the "leadership" and "initiative" of Mr. Trump.

"Allow me to thank the man we wouldn't be here without for his efforts for picking up the phone, for keeping his word," Pence, Indiana's governor, said. "Today, America won. And we have Donald Trump to thank."

Some have publicly criticized the implications of the deal, including Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, who ran as a candidate in the Democratic presidential primary race.

"He has signaled to every corporation in America that they can threaten to offshore jobs in exchange for business-friendly tax benefits and incentives," Sanders wrote in a recent Washington Post op-ed.

The White House weighed in as well, just as Mr. Trump publicly touted the deal.

"I'm not criticizing it at all," White House press secretary Josh Earnest told reporters, but noted that President Obama had set a high bar on manufacturing operations. Earnest said the president-elect would have to make 804 more deals like Carrier to equal the manufacturing jobs created under Mr. Obama's watch.

Mr. Trump has hinted that a deal was imminent since the Thanksgiving holiday, saying in tweets that he was "MAKING PROGRESS" towards an arrangement with Carrier.







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#### **Discussion Questions**

1. As the article indicates, Carrier, in exchange for agreeing to keep its factory in Indiana, agreed to economic incentives negotiated by Vice President-elect Mike Pence (also Indiana's governor) in the form of tax breaks of at least \$700,000 a year over the next decade. In your reasoned opinion, should states offer such financial incentives to corporations? Why or why not?

This is an opinion question, so student responses may vary. Some students may view such deals as necessary in order to lure businesses to communities, while others may view such a practice as "corporate welfare."

2. As the article indicates, during the 2016 presidential campaign, Mr. Trump warned that he would hit Carrier with massive tariffs unless it kept its Indianapolis, Indiana plant "up and running." What authority, if any, does the United States president have to impose trade restrictions on specific companies?

Although the president of the United States does have some executive authority to impose trade sanctions (particularly in times of "national emergencies"), the normal course of action is for the United States Congress to decide whether trade sanctions should be imposed.

3. Once Indiana's ten-year tax incentive deal with Carrier expires (and assuming it is not renewed), what will keep Carrier in the Hoosier state?

Obviously, the future is uncertain. Once the ten-year tax incentive deal expires, Carrier could either negotiate an extension of the existing deal (or perhaps an even more favorable deal) with Indiana, or it could move.







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#### Of Special Interest

This section of the newsletter addresses president-elect Trump's recent claim that the president of the United States cannot have a conflict of interest.

### **Ethical Dilemma**

"Trump's Claim That 'The President Can't Have a Conflict of Interest"

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/factchecker/wp/2016/11/23/trumps-claim-that-the-president-cant-have-aconflict-of-interest/?utm\_term=.8d81bce9de0e

According to the article, President-elect Donald Trump will enter office with an astonishing array of business projects, loans and business deals around the globe. Reports have raised questions about those potential conflicts – Trump acknowledged that he recently encouraged British politician Nigel Farage to oppose offshore wind farms that might affect the view from one of his Scottish golf courses — but Trump shrugged off any potential problems.

"The law's totally on my side, meaning, the president can't have a conflict of interest," he said.

Is this the case?

The law doesn't say the president can't have a conflict of interest. But Congress, under Title 18 Section 208 of the U.S. code, did exempt the president and vice president from conflict-of-interest laws on the theory that the presidency has so much power that any possible executive action might pose a potential conflict.

"As a general rule, public officials in the executive branch are subject to criminal penalties if they personally and substantially participate in matters in which they (or their immediate families, business partners or associated organizations) hold financial interests," the Congressional Research Service said in an October report. "However, because of concerns regarding interference with the exercise of constitutional duties, Congress has not applied these restrictions to the President. Consequently, there is no current legal requirement that would compel the President to relinquish financial interests because of a conflict of interest."

This principle was outlined in a 1974 letter from the Justice Department, issued at a time when Nelson Rockefeller was under consideration to be confirmed as vice president after Richard Nixon resigned and Gerald Ford became president. Rockefeller, then governor of New York, was heir to a







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fortune and consented to congressional hearings in which his business interests were closely examined.

"The uniqueness of the President's situation is also illustrated by the fact that disqualification of the President from policy decisions because of personal conflicting interests is inconceivable," the letter noted. The 1978 Ethics of Government Act and the 1989 Ethics Reform Act later codified this principle.

In other words, Congress assumed that the president could be trusted to do the right thing. Most recent presidents — Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton — have placed their personal assets in a blind trust, even if they did not have a legal obligation to do so. President Obama did not, but his assets were only in mutual funds and Treasury bonds.

Trump is unique because so much of wealth is tied in with the value of his "Trump" brand. Already, foreign diplomats have been flocking to his recently opened hotel in downtown Washington — and Trump noted to the Times that his brand is suddenly "hotter."

The fear of potential influence from foreign governments through economic benefits to federal officials led to the Foreign Emoluments Clause in the U.S. Constitution. Trump's business holdings around the world could test the boundaries of the letter or spirit of the clause. Case Western Reserve University law professor Erik Jensen outlined key questions that may arise regarding whether the Emoluments Clause would apply to Trump and his business holdings.

"If nothing else, however, the Clause emphasizes the founders' fears about economic benefits coming to American officials from foreign governments. It adds a constitutional dimension to some good, old-fashioned appearance-of-impropriety concerns," Jensen said in response to a question about Trump and the Emoluments Clause posed by Jonathan Adler of the Volokh Conspiracy blog.

For what it's worth, Trump's pick for chief of staff, Reince Priebus, has vowed that the White House counsel will review all potential areas that could pose a conflict: "I can assure the American people that there wouldn't be any wrongdoing or any sort of undue influence over any decision-making."

#### **Discussion Questions**

#### 1. Define "conflict of interest."

According to <a href="http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Conflict+of+Interest">http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/Conflict+of+Interest</a>, conflict of interest is:

A term used to describe the situation in which a public official or fiduciary who, contrary to the obligation and absolute duty to act for the benefit of the public or a designated individual, exploits the relationship for personal benefit, typically pecuniary (financial).







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In certain relationships, individuals or the general public place their trust and confidence in someone to act in their best interests. When an individual has the responsibility to represent another person—whether as administrator, attorney, executor, government official, or trustee—a clash between professional obligations and personal interests arises if the individual tries to perform that duty while at the same time trying to achieve personal gain. The appearance of a conflict of interest is present if there is a potential for the personal interests of an individual to clash with fiduciary duties, such as when a client has his or her attorney commence an action against a company in which the attorney is the majority stockholder.

Incompatibility of professional duties and personal interests has led Congress and many state legislatures to enact statutes defining conduct that constitutes a conflict of interest and specifying the sanctions for violations. A member of a profession who has been involved in a conflict of interest might be subject to disciplinary proceedings before the body that granted permission to practice that profession.

2. In your reasoned opinion, does a conflict of interest represent a violation of ethical standards? Why or why not?

This is an opinion question, so student responses may vary.

3. As the article indicates, according to president-elect Trump, "the president can't have a conflict of interest." Do you agree or disagree? Explain your response. Is it difficult or impossible to answer this question without being influenced by your political affiliation and ideology?

As referenced in the article, president-elect Trump's full statement regarding the issue is "(t)he law's totally on my side, meaning, the president can't have a conflict of interest." As the article further indicates, the law does not say the president cannot have a conflict of interest. However, the United States Congress, under Title 18 Section 208 of the U.S. Code, did exempt the president and vice president from conflict-of-interest laws on the theory that the presidency has so much power that any possible executive action might pose a potential conflict.

In your discussions with students, do remind them that the law and ethics do not always coincide. More particularly, what might not constitute a violation of law can constitute a violation of ethics. Ethical standards often encourage the decision-maker to avoid even the appearance of impropriety.







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#### Of Special Interest

This section of the newsletter will assist you in addressing Article 2 ("Trump Takes Aim at First Amendment") and the Ethical Dilemma ("Trump's Claim That 'The President Can't Have a Conflict of Interest'") of the newsletter.

### **Teaching Tips**

Teaching Tip 1 (Related to Article 2—"Trump Takes Aim at First Amendment"): "How the Law Protects Flag Burning in the United States"

Note: Please see the following video, as well as the accompanying article, regarding how the law protects flag burning in the United States:

http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/law-protects-flag-burning-unitedstates/story?id=43855624

"How the Law Protects Flag Burning in the United States"

According to the article, anyone caught burning the American flag should face consequences -- including having their citizenship yanked or facing a year in jail, proclaimed president-elect Donald Trump in a recent tweet.

The act is considered offensive by many, but flag burning is legal in the U.S. under Supreme Court rulings that it is constitutionally protected speech under the First Amendment.

It was not clear what sparked Trump's tweet, but it comes after a college in Massachusetts took down an American flag on campus during protests of Trump's victory after a previous flag burning incident. Many have protested the decision by Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass.

Here's a look at the current law and what Trump's comments could mean:

In 1989, the high court ruled that flag burning was a form of "symbolic speech" under the Constitution. The 5-4 decision came in a case involving Gregory Joey Johnson who, outside the 1984 Republican National Convention, burned the flag to protest the policies of then-President Ronald Reagan.

Johnson faced a fine and a year in prison for violating a Texas law that made burning the flag a felony. The case made its way to the Supreme Court and although divided, the justices sided with Johnson, reversing the lower court ruling.







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It is unclear whether any of Trump's potential Supreme Court nominees would side with him on outlawing flag burning.

Former Justice Antonin Scalia sided with the majority in the 1989 ruling that flag burning is protected as "symbolic speech." Trump has praised Scalia and said that he would seek to appoint a similar justice to the court.

In 1990, Congress passed the Flag Protection Act to outlaw knowingly burning or otherwise defacing the American flag. The Supreme Court shot down that law as well, holding that it violated the First Amendment.

There have been other attempts by Congress to legislate flag burning, but none have passed. The House went as far as approving an amendment to ban "flag desecration," but it has never made it through the full Senate.

Congress shot down the most recent proposed constitutional amendment to ban flag burning in 2006. The measure, co-sponsored by Hillary Clinton, would have outlawed flag desecration and made it punishable by a fine.

Trump transition team spokesperson Jason Miller defended the president-elect's tweet.

"Flag burning should be illegal," Miller said on CNN. "The president-elect is a very strong supporter of the First Amendment, but there's a big difference between that and burning the American flag."

Some of Trump's fellow Republicans broke with his stance on flag burning. House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, stated that while he does not "support or believe in the idea of people burning the American flag, I support the First Amendment."

The American Civil Liberties Union slammed Trump's tweet as "fundamentally un-American." "The idea that the government could not only censor someone for engaging in political speech, but actually revoke a protester's U.S. citizenship as a punishment for political speech is unconstitutional and fundamentally un-American," ACLU senior staff attorney Lee Rowland said.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest criticized Trump's suggestion that flag burners face jail time or lose citizenship, saying that "we have a responsibility as a country" to defend the First Amendment.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also broke with Trump on his call to punish flag burners. In reference to burning the flag, McConnell said "that activity is a protected First Amendment right. A form of unpleasant speech, and in this country we have a long tradition of respecting unpleasant speech. I happen to support the Supreme Court's decision on that matter."

Teaching Tip 2 (Related to the Ethical Dilemma—"Trump's Claim That 'The President Can't Have a Conflict of Interest"): "Emoluments Clause"







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Note: In your class discussion of the Ethical Dilemma, share with students the exact language of Article I, Section 9, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution, also referred to as the "Emoluments Clause":

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

For an article addressing the Emoluments Clause, please refer to the following article:

#### "Emoluments Clause"

#### http://www.heritage.org/constitution/#!/articles/1/essays/68/emoluments-clause

Article VI of the Articles of Confederation was the source of the Constitution's prohibition on federal titles of nobility and the so-called Emoluments Clause. The clause sought to shield the republican character of the United States against corrupting foreign influences.

The prohibition on federal titles of nobility—reinforced by the corresponding prohibition on state titles of nobility in Article I, Section 10, and more generally by the republican Guarantee Clause in Article IV, Section 4—was designed to underpin the republican character of the American government. In the ample sense James Madison gave the term in *The Federalist* No. 39, a republic was "a government which derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people, and is administered by persons holding their offices during good behavior."

Republicanism so understood was the ground of the constitutional edifice. The prohibition on titles of nobility buttressed the structure by precluding the possibility of an aristocracy, whether hereditary or personal, whose members would inevitably assert a right to occupy the leading positions in the state.

Further, the prohibition on titles complemented the prohibition in Article III, Section 3, on the "Corruption of Blood" worked by "Attainder[s] of Treason" (i.e., the prohibition on creating a disability in the posterity of an attained person upon claiming an inheritance as his heir, or as heir to his ancestor). Together these prohibitions ruled out the creation of certain caste-specific legal privileges or disabilities arising solely from the accident of birth.

In addition to upholding republicanism in a political sense, the prohibition on titles also pointed to a durable American social ideal. This is the ideal of equality; it is what David Ramsey, the eighteenth-century historian of the American Revolution, called the "life and soul" of republicanism. The particular conception of equality denied a place in American life for hereditary distinctions of caste—slavery being the most glaring exception. At the same time, however, it also allowed free play for the "diversity in the faculties of men," the protection of which, as Madison insisted in *The Federalist* No. 10, was "the first object of government." The republican system established by the Founders, in other words, envisaged a society in which distinctions flowed from the unequal uses that its members made of equal opportunities: a society led by a natural aristocracy based on talent,







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virtue, and accomplishment, not by an hereditary aristocracy based on birth. "Capacity, Spirit and Zeal in the Cause," as John Adams said, would "supply the Place of Fortune, Family, and every other Consideration, which used to have Weight with Mankind." Or as the Jeffersonian St. George Tucker put it in 1803: "A Franklin, or a Washington, need not the pageantry of honours, the glare of titles, nor the pre-eminence of station to distinguish them....Equality of rights...precludes not that distinction which superiority of virtue introduces among the citizens of a republic."

Similarly, the Framers intended the Emoluments Clause to protect the republican character of American political institutions. "One of the weak sides of republics, among their numerous advantages, is that they afford too easy an inlet to foreign corruption." *The Federalist* No. 22 (Alexander Hamilton). The delegates at the Constitutional Convention specifically designed the clause as an antidote to potentially corrupting foreign practices of a kind that the Framers had observed during the period of the Confederation. Louis XVI had the custom of presenting expensive gifts to departing ministers who had signed treaties with France, including American diplomats. In 1780, the King gave Arthur Lee a portrait of the King set in diamonds above a gold snuff box; and in 1785, he gave Benjamin Franklin a similar miniature portrait, also set in diamonds. Likewise, the King of Spain presented John Jay (during negotiations with Spain) with the gift of a horse. All these gifts were reported to Congress, which in each case accorded permission to the recipients to accept them. Wary, however, of the possibility that such gestures might unduly influence American officials in their dealings with foreign states, the Framers institutionalized the practice of requiring the consent of Congress before one could accept "any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from...[a] foreign State."

Like several other provisions of the Constitution, the Emoluments Clause also embodies the memory of the epochal constitutional struggles in seventeenth-century Britain between the forces of Parliament and the Stuart dynasty. St. George Tucker's explanation of the clause noted that "in the reign of Charles the [S]econd of England, that prince, and almost all his officers of state were either actual pensioners of the court of France, or supposed to be under its influence, directly, or indirectly, from that cause. The reign of that monarch has been, accordingly, proverbially disgraceful to his memory." As these remarks imply, the clause was directed not merely at American diplomats serving abroad, but more generally at officials throughout the federal government.

The Emoluments Clause has apparently never been litigated, but it has been interpreted and enforced through a long series of opinions of the Attorneys General and by less-frequent opinions of the Comptrollers General. Congress has also exercised its power of "Consent" under the clause by enacting the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, which authorizes federal employees to accept foreign governmental benefits of various kinds in specific circumstances.







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### Chapter Key for McGraw-Hill/Irwin Business Law Texts:

	Hot Topics	Video Suggestions	Ethical Dilemma	Teaching Tips
Barnes et al., Law for Business	Chapters 4 and 47	N/A	Chapter 3	Chapters 3 and 4
Bennett-Alexander & Hartman, Employment Law for Business	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kubasek et al., Dynamic Business Law	Chapters 5, 6 and 46	Chapter 6	Chapter 2	Chapters 2 and 5
Kubasek et al., Dynamic Business Law: Summarized Cases	Chapters 5, 6 and 46	Chapter 6	Chapter 2	Chapters 2 and 5
Kubasek et al., Dynamic Business Law: The Essentials	Chapters 1 and 5	Chapter 1	Chapter 2	Chapters 2 and 5
Mallor et al., Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E- Commerce Environment	Chapters 3 and 52	N/A	Chapter 4	Chapters 3 and 4
McAdams et al., Law, Business & Society	Chapters 5, 16 and 17	Chapter 16	Chapter 2	Chapters 2 and 5
Melvin, The Legal Environment of Business: A Managerial Approach	Chapters 2, 19 and 26	Chapter 26	Chapter 5	Chapters 2 and 5
Pagnattaro et al., The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business	Chapters 6, 12 and 19	Chapter 12	Chapter 2	Chapters 2 and 6
Sukys, Brown, Business Law with UCC Applications	Chapters 2, 33 and 34	Chapter 34	Chapter 1	Chapters 1 and 2







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# This Newsletter Supports the Following Business Law Texts:

Barnes et al., Law for Business, 12th Edition 2015© (0078023815) – New edition coming January 2017 Bennett-Alexander et al., Employment Law for Business, 8th Edition 2015© (0078023793)

Kubasek et al., Dynamic Business Law, 4th Edition 2017© (1259723585)–New edition now available!

Kubasek et al., Dynamic Business Law: Summarized Cases, 1st Edition 2013© (0078023777)

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Mallor et al., Business Law: The Ethical, Global, and E-Commerce Environment, 16th Edition 2016© (0077733711) McAdams et al., Law, Business & Society, 11th Edition 2015© (0078023866)

Melvin, The Legal Environment of Business: A Managerial Approach, 3rd edition 2018© (1259686205)–New edition now available!

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