

# How to Read a Case

# Today's Agenda

Hammontree v. Jenner

ENORMOUS DISCLAIMER!

# Before you begin:

1. Connect with your purpose.
2. Discern your immediate goal.

# Why take this preliminary step?

Connecting to a purpose makes the work easier and more fulfilling.

Discerning a goal allows you to focus your attention on what matters.

**There is no escape.**

**Stress is a very bad, no good  
motivator.**

# Purpose

Reading *Hammontree v. Jenner* for your 1L Torts Class



**Goals determine what we pay attention to**

# Goals when reading a case

1. Grasp the internal logic and mechanics of the case.
2. Synthesize within a broader context.

**Why read cases?**

# Gaps, Contradictions, and Ambiguity

# Internal logic and mechanics of a case

1. Procedural posture
2. Legal question(s)
3. Relevant facts
4. Holding
5. Reasoning(s) behind the holding

# **Aside: How to take notes**

# Internal logic and mechanics of a case

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# Three lines of reasoning

1. Precedent binds us.
2. Analogy to products liability falls apart.
3. Analogous authority also binds us.