

Legal Research Fall 2022 Hypos

The librarians will be using these hypos in-class in Weeks 7, 8, and 9.

Weeks 7 & 8

Dog Show Stalker?

Jordan and Sydney are professional dog handlers in Southern California, well-respected for their showing of Weimaraners at famous events like the Westminster Kennel Club dog show. The two have always been friendly rivals, but after losing to Jordan last year, Sydney's behavior began to change.

- Four times when Jordan took his dogs to the grooming salon, Sydney's car was already there even though she lived nowhere in the area. Each time, she watched him and the dogs arrive, then drove away laughing.
- Around that same time, Jordan received 10 or 20 phone calls where the caller played audio of dogs angrily barking.
- Once the caller said in a quiet voice, "You'll never make it to Westminster again."
- After losing to Jordan yet another time Sydney yelled, "I will end this one way or another!" Another competitor overheard and told Sydney her comment was inappropriate, to which she replied, "What? It's not like I was threatening to kill anyone."

Did Sydney's actions amount to enough of a credible threat to constitute criminal stalking in California?

Week 9

Casebook Kindler?

Smash Grabberson was burning with anger. His roommate had told him he needed to move out, but he had nowhere else to go in San Diego. As Smash packed his last few belongings into a box, he decided he'd get revenge. He pulled an old law school casebook out of the box, struck a match, and lit the book on fire. He tossed the flaming book onto the carpeted floor of the apartment and walked out the front door, laughing as he closed the door behind him. He got into his car and drove off.

Meanwhile, back in the apartment, the flames on the book quickly died down. The now-smoldering book burned a large hole in the carpet and blackened the wood floor underneath, but that was the only damage. When Smash's roommate returned home, he called the landlord to report what had happened. The landlord has contacted the police and wants Smash charged with arson.