



## Scenarios for Speaker's Corner

1. A divorce case, where a local celebrity couple has a teenaged child and both parents plan to move to different cities after the divorce. They have difficulty agreeing on the terms of dividing up the family property and custody/visitation over the child. The celebrity couple's divorce has been mentioned in the media. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?
2. A toxic spill case, where a farmer has his land contaminated by a neighbouring gas station. When the gas station was having its underground tanks filled up, the pipe came loose and spilled gallons of gasoline into a nearby stream on the farmer's land that is used for drinking water and for watering his fields. The water in the stream is now contaminated. The gas station claims it was a freak accident and does not feel responsible, while the farmer seeks redress for the damage and inconvenience he has suffered. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?
3. Owners of a downtown condominium have recently discovered that they have a "leaky condo". When the building was constructed, the builder used a cheap, substandard waterproofing membrane product in order to save money. Now, water is seeping through the walls and floor and is causing water damage as well as mold. It will cost at least \$5 million to properly repair the condo and it will take six months to complete. Many of the owners have nowhere else to go and with each day and rainfall they are getting more concerned about the further damage that is happening in their homes. The builder feels sorry for the owners but says that it was not illegal at the time to build with the type of waterproofing membrane used and he feels it is also a case of "buyer beware". The owners do not have the \$5 million needed to complete repairs and believe it is the builder's responsibility to pay for the damage he caused. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?
4. A gang of 16-year-old youths recently vandalized a local heritage building by spray painting it, breaking windows and destroying the interior. A number of one-of-a-kind and priceless paintings and photographs were ruined. The heritage building is located in a small community whose major source of revenue is tourism – many people from around the world come to visit this town, known for its Gold Rush days back in the 1800's. Although City Hall wants the youths to bear the consequences for their actions, they also want to ensure that other youth in the town see what a loss this is to the community. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?

5. Two neighbouring farmers have until now had their valuable lands separated by a wooden fence. A violent storm recently destroyed the fence and the farmers want to mark the boundary between their properties with a row of trees. However, they cannot agree on where the property line should be. Each farmer has hired separate property surveyors, but due to a recent and unrelated fire, there are some missing documents in the local Records Office, making it impossible to determine exactly where the dividing line should be. Both farmers are very aware of how valuable every inch of the land is. Also both farmers are preparing to plant this season's crops before the weather turns and need to know where the boundary is before they can go ahead with planting. Due to the economic downturn, each farmer is budget-conscious and does not want to spend a lot of money to resolve this dispute. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?
  
6. A young man who works as a model purchases a coffee and donut from the local donut shop on his way to work. As he is exiting the drive-through, a squirrel runs in front of his car, forcing him to stop abruptly. The hot coffee, which had been placed in a cup holder in front of him, splashed off the lid and hot coffee spilled onto his legs and hips causing serious burns. The young man had to undergo extensive surgery, which came to \$25,000 and he has been unable to find modeling work because of his injuries. He does not have \$25,000 for his surgery bills. The donut shop is part of a well-known chain and has had at least 30 prior complaints about the unusually high temperature of its hot beverages. The donut shop says it serves its coffee at the same temperature as McDonalds and that the server had put the coffee in a protective sleeve which contained a number of written warnings on it. Unfortunately, when the media got a hold of the story and paid a surprise visit to the shop to ask about what happened, the donut shop management panicked and made some derogatory comments about the young man. These comments have now angered many members of the public. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?
  
7. A local company that makes cold-cuts and sandwich meats recently experienced bacterial contamination of one of its specialty products. Most customers who purchased and consumed the meat experienced no problems, but the elderly customers who ate the meat contracted a serious disease and were hospitalized. The company has not had problems like this in the past, and has an otherwise good reputation. It wants to settle the issue with the elderly customers but does not want to be taken advantage of. The elderly customers do not want the issue to drag on because they do not have the time, money and energy to deal with a long process, but they "want justice". Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?

8. A local singer, who is well known for her talent and also for her small canine sidekick, a Chihuahua, has recently broken up with her boyfriend. She claims her boyfriend was involved with another famous singer and called him some nasty names in the media. He, in turn, denies the allegations, but many people have already publicly shunned him. As a result, he buys a large pit bull which he lets attack the Chihuahua one night when out for a stroll along the same boardwalk that he and his ex-girlfriend used to frequent. The Chihuahua is badly injured and requires medical attention. The singer is anxious to get on with her life and to avoid as much further contact with her ex-boyfriend as possible. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?
9. The mayor is doing some renovations at his residence. He would like to put in a massive swimming pool in his backyard, but does not bother to get a permit for the work. City inspectors, who happen to be inspecting a building next door, take notice of the excavation for the swimming pool and, upon looking into matters further, discover the work has not been issued a permit. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?
10. A local man, legally married in Canada in a same-sex marriage, has recently lost his spouse in a car accident. He now seeks to claim survivor benefits under the Canada Pension Plan. The government, however, refuses to pay out, claiming that the benefits only apply to spouses in heterosexual marriages. Which process is best in this scenario and why? What does your process involve, how does it work and how will it be appropriate and a good choice in the circumstances?

