



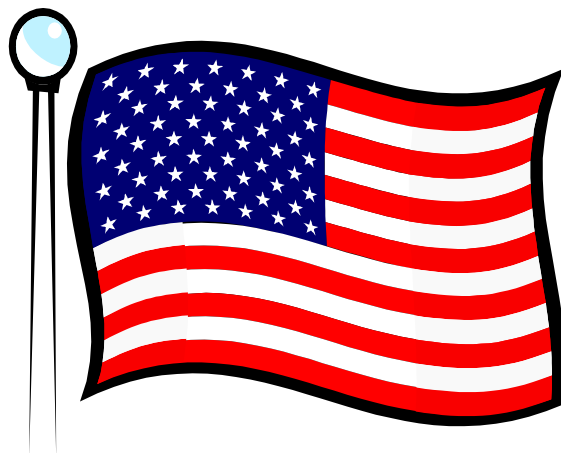
# ***LAW FOR*** ***KIDS***

*-by Bill Watkins*

*Founder of the Law Dragons*



*Welcome to the World of American Law.  
And congratulations in Advance for being willing  
to read this work and help our country grow!*



*I pledge allegiance to the Flag,  
of the United States of America*

*And to the Republic for which it stands  
One Nation, under God, Indivisible*

*With liberty and Justice for All.*





## ***The Law Dragons***

Up away, high in the sky  
they fly—law dragons protecting  
the way we think and do,  
Hoping we do not die.

Pete is one, has three heads and  
breathes fire; Gretel is the other,  
female, orange, fiery herself,  
but while Pete in blue swoops in

Gretel thinks, the two a team  
against wrongdoing, illuminating  
law so children know how to live  
a long time—

Pete likes to rhyme!! Gretel too,  
and this was what they hoped  
to say to you:

“Obey the law, children, wear your  
helmet when you ride. Hitting, pushing,  
poking, stabbing and shooting will  
*not* go, and’ll get you put in jail!!

“In jail you dream alone, with so  
little space to roam. I think you’d  
rather be at home. So wear that helmet  
if you ride a bike, scooter, roller blade  
or anything with wheels on streets  
or sidewalks.

“Never write on walls or desks or things that do not belong to you. Do not paint on things that aren’t yours. Never steal. Taking something that is not yours will take from your soul; what’s worse it leads to jail, we already said. You’ll wish you were dead!!

“And that’s why we’re here, to push and remind you not to die, not to live selfishly. Do not hurt others, and if someone hurts you: We are sorry about that, but *DO NOT* hurt back. Report the incident, stay safe from harm, let the police or teachers or parents help, be patient, and someone will come who cares like us!!

“Last, children, as we are flying around up here, could you do two more things for us? Read the law as you learn to read, teach your parents if they don’t know them all, like the one about fireworks—some communities allow them, some don’t, which is yours? Obey!! Those adult drinks with alcohol in them? Do not touch them!!! Smoking? Inhaling smoke into your lungs? Firemen and women must risk this danger to save our lives, but you and I? *NO!!!*

“Finally, kids, have fun—one day at a time!! Stay in touch with us and law, and you’ll be sure to stay in line.

“Give as much as you can within the rules,  
and say ‘*NO*’ to committing crimes even  
with friends you think are cool. Walk  
away... And if some day you think there is  
a bad law—*DON’T BREAK IT*,

**“CHANGE IT!!** Become a part of this  
country, give your song a voice, tell  
people how you feel. Law protects  
our rights to love, joy and peace, so  
wait your turn, raise your hand and be  
counted.

“You’ll be happy if you do, like us  
dragons, free to be anything we want  
to be... except....”

Except when your freedom  
hurts others. Obey the law, kids!!  
Thanks!!!







## *Greetings, Americans!*

Children, Americans in training... young people, who want to be a part of it all: I'm Bill Watkins, founder of the Law Dragons. I teach law and civics to kids aged 5-18. I want to get kids the vote; I want to welcome young people into the process of making laws.

Let's first learn about law as it is, starting with some basic "codes" that are enforced by local policemen and women. They come from two places usually: Vehicle Code and Penal Code. Every state in the United States has versions of these.

States also have Constitutions, as does our whole country, remember? We became the United States of America on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. Before that, there were thirteen American "colonies" on the East Coast of this land we now call the USA.

Those colonies' government came from England across the big Atlantic Ocean. There was a king, and governors sent by the king, taxes and laws that all came from England. Over time, the American colonists rebelled against England; wanted to be independent.

In this book, I have the words written by the colonists—made public on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, that ended official legal ties to Britain. From then on, it was up to Americans to come up with our laws and traditions, codes, etc.

The word "law" comes from Old English "lagu," Old Norse "lag," and refers to "lay..." As in to "lay something down." And that's what people have done over the years: lay down laws to which we aspire to obey, protect and preserve.

In doing so, we preserve and protect ourselves as best we can.



# Law = *noun*

noun: **law**; noun: **the law**

## 1.

the system of **rules** that a particular country or community recognizes as regulating the actions of its members and may enforce by the imposition of penalties.

“they were taken to court for **breaking the law**”

- an individual rule as part of a system of law.

plural noun: **laws**

- systems of law as a subject of study or as the basis of the legal profession.

“he was still practicing law”

- a thing regarded as having the binding force or effect of a formal system of rules.

“what he said was law”

- *informal*

the police.

“he’d never been in trouble with the law in his life”

- statutory law and the common law.
- a rule defining correct procedure or behavior in a sport.

“the laws of the game”

## 2.

a statement of fact, deduced from observation, to the effect that a particular natural or scientific phenomenon always occurs if certain conditions are present.

“the second law of thermodynamics”

- a generalization based on a fact or event perceived to be recurrent.

“the first law of American corporate life is that dead wood floats”

## 3.

the body of divine commandments as expressed in the Bible or other religious texts.

- the Pentateuch as distinct from the other parts of the Hebrew Bible (the Prophets and the Writings).<sup>1</sup>

*For me, LAW is a work of art composed by communities, groups of people, or a Higher Authority to establish an ideal for living.*

*—Bill Watkins*

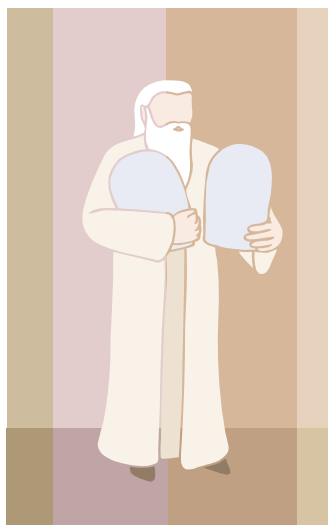
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<sup>1</sup> Google

## *Ancient **LAW**:*

### ***The Ten Commandments of Hebrew Law***

- 1. Worship only One God**
- 2. Have no false Idols**
- 3. Do Not use the LORD's name in vain**
- 4. Keep the Sabbath day holy**
- 5. Honor your father and mother to live long**
- 6. Do Not Kill**
- 7. Do not Commit adultery**
- 8. Do not Steal**
- 9. Do not tell lies against your neighbor**
- 10. Do not Covet your neighbor's life**



## *USEFUL LAWS FOR KIDS TO MASTER, California:*

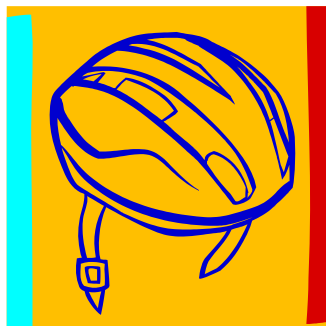
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### **Vehicle Code (VC) Section 21212 Youth Bicycle Helmets Minors**

#### **Youth Bicycle Helmets: Minors**

21212. (a) A person under 18 years of age shall not operate a bicycle, a nonmotorized scooter, or a skateboard, nor shall they wear in-line or roller skates, nor ride upon a bicycle, a nonmotorized scooter, or a skateboard as a passenger, upon a street, bikeway... or any other public bicycle path or trail unless that person is wearing a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet that meets the standards of either the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) or the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), or standards subsequently established by those entities.

*Translation: if you're under 18, gotta wear a  
helmet when you ride!!!!*



## California PENAL CODE 415: **DISTURBING THE PEACE**

415. Any of the following persons shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for a period of not more than 90 days, a fine of not more than four hundred dollars (\$400), or both such imprisonment and fine:

- (1) Any person who unlawfully fights in a public place or challenges another person in a public place to fight.
- (2) Any person who maliciously and willfully disturbs another person by loud and unreasonable noise.
- (3) Any person who uses offensive words in a public place which are inherently likely to provoke an immediate violent reaction.

**(2): Blowing up Fireworks in the Middle of the night falls in the this category, whether you live in the city of Los Angeles or not. L.A., as some communities do, have outlawed ALL FIREWORKS use, other than by professionals with licenses...**

"It shall be unlawful for any person to use, give, possess, sell, or discharge any fireworks..."

*Los Angeles Municipal Code section 57.55.01 (A)*

**BANG!!!!**

## (more on...) **Explosive Substances**

Encountering explosive devices/substances are potentially life threatening. The smallest devices, however plain or innocuous in appearance, have the potential to injure, maim, or fatally wound.

Generally, explosive substances come in many shapes and sizes and are classified as either “safe” or “dangerous.”

### **“SAFE” Explosive Substances:**

- “Safe and Sane” fireworks;
- Emergency highway flares/fuses; and
- Fixed ammunition and “blank” or saluting cartridges of less than .50 caliber.

### **Fireworks**

**All fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles, SEC. 57.55.01(A) Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). It shall be unlawful for any person to use, give, possess, sell or discharge any fireworks. Fireworks are considered explosive devices, and they are extremely dangerous. Every year numerous children and adults are injured or burned as a result of playing with fireworks.**

**“Safe and Sane” fireworks have the State Fire Marshal’s seal stamped on the packaging. This seal indicates that the explosive substances contained in the firework have been tested and meet specific safety and performance requirements, but nevertheless are illegal in the City of Los Angeles.<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> From the LAPD

### **CPC – 415 (Continued)**

*(3) Any person who uses offensive words in a public place which are inherently likely to provoke an immediate violent reaction.*

**(3) above is argumentative and debateable.**

**“Subjective” we sometimes say, and must be interpreted—*may* be interpreted in different ways by different people. See it in relation to Amendment #1 of the U.S. Constitution shown later in this book!!!**





**California PENAL CODE**  
**SECTION 240-248**  
***ASSAULT***

240. An assault is an unlawful attempt, coupled with a present ability, to commit a violent injury on the person of another.

241. (a) An assault is punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000), or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

***Translation: Don't HIT!!!!!!!***

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**California PENAL CODE**  
**SECTION 422-422.4**  
***Criminal Threat***

422. (a) Any person who willfully threatens to commit a crime which will result in death or great bodily injury to another person, with the specific intent that the statement, made verbally, in writing, or by means of an electronic communication device, is to be taken as a threat, even if there is no intent of actually carrying it out, which, on its face and under the circumstances in which it is made, is so unequivocal, unconditional, immediate, and specific as to convey to the person threatened, a gravity of purpose and an immediate prospect of execution of the threat, and thereby causes that person reasonably to be in sustained fear for his or her own safety or for his or her immediate family's safety, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by imprisonment in the state prison.

***Translation: Don't Threaten to hurt others!!!!***

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## **CA PENAL CODE**

### **SECTION 422.55, 422.6 – HATE**

422.55. For purposes of this title, and for purposes of all other state law unless an explicit provision of law or the context clearly requires a different meaning, the following shall apply:

(a) "Hate crime" means a criminal act committed, in whole or in part, because of one or more of the following actual or perceived characteristics of the victim:

- (1) Disability.
- (2) Gender.
- (3) Nationality.
- (4) Race or ethnicity.
- (5) Religion.
- (6) *Sexual orientation.*

(7) Association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.

(b) "Hate crime" includes, but is not limited to, a violation of Section 422.6.

422.6. (a) No person, whether or not acting under color of law, shall by force or threat of force, willfully injure, intimidate, interfere with, oppress, or threaten any other person in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him or her by the Constitution or laws of this state or by the Constitution or laws of the United States in whole or in part because of one or more of the actual or perceived characteristics of the victim listed in subdivision (a) of Section 422.55.

***Don't Hate – Appreciate!!!!!!***



**California PENAL CODE**  
**SECTION 594-625c**  
***Graffiti and Vandalism***

594. (a) Every person who maliciously commits any of the following acts with respect to any real or personal property not his or her own, in cases other than those specified by state law, is guilty of vandalism:

- (1) Defaces with graffiti or other inscribed material.
- (2) Damages.
- (3) Destroys.

***Translation: Respect other People and their Property!!!!***

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## ***LITTERING, PENAL CODE***

374. (a) Littering means the willful or negligent throwing, dropping, placing, depositing, or sweeping, or causing any such acts, of any waste matter on land or water in other than appropriate storage containers or areas designated for such purposes.

(b) Waste matter means discarded, used, or leftover substance including, but not limited to, a lighted or nonlighted cigarette, cigar, match, or any flaming or glowing material, or any garbage, trash, refuse, paper, container, packaging or construction material, carcass of a dead animal, any nauseous or offensive matter of any kind, or any object likely to injure any person or create a traffic hazard.

***MESSAGE HERE: KEEP OUR COMMUNITIES  
CLEAN!!!***



## ***California Penal Code: ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION***

**25658.** ... every person who sells, furnishes, gives, or causes to be sold, furnished, or given away any alcoholic beverage to any person under 21 years of age is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(b) Except as provided in Section 25667, any person under 21 years of age who purchases any alcoholic beverage, or any person under 21 years of age who consumes any alcoholic beverage in any on-sale premises, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**Message: Drinking flammable liquids like  $C_2H_5OH$  (Ethyl Alcohol) is dangerous enough that law suggests waiting until 21 years old to “try” it. I say:**  
***HEED THIS WARNING!!!!***



## CRIMINAL LAW:

In the practice of law, lawyers and judges use terms from the Latin language. Two of the most interesting of these are “*mens rea*” and “*actus reus*” in criminal law referring to “*intent*” and “*action*.”

Google defines these thus:

***Actus reus**, sometimes called the external element or the objective element of a crime, is the Latin term for the "guilty act" which, when proved beyond a reasonable doubt in combination with the **mens rea**, "guilty mind", produces criminal liability in the common law-based criminal law jurisdictions ...*

Both the act *and* the intent are important when judges, lawyers and the accused are looking at a criminal law case.

## MORE BRIEF LAW HISTORY

From ancient times, most societies have developed some sort of law code by which they attempt to live.

In the United States, the colonies had laws before our independence in 1776. A lot of the ideas came from British laws.

There are codes that are written down, and made by lawyers and politicians—often thought up by citizens like you. (“Statutory Law”)

Then there is what is called “common law,” a British concept that refers to laws made up and decided by judges’ decisions, not written statutes.

You will hear the term “common law” in reference to marriage too, when a couple is not legally or religiously married, but is in every other way a marriage—so is treated as one.

Reminds me of the term “common sense,” which should apply to law. Law is not unnatural, but rather a natural way to aspire to good living, agreed upon by majorities...

## ***HOW LAWS ARE MADE:***

### ***Federal:***

Laws that affect the whole country are brought to Congress by members of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Each state has two elected U.S. senators that represent them in Washington D.C., at the Capital building.

The number of House representatives from each state varies based on the population of the state. California now has fifty-three representatives, while Alaska and several other states have only one.

The laws or “bills” as they are called, are made up by the offices of the Congress members, often from their own ideas or ideas of the people who live in their district. Since they were elected to represent their area in Washington D.C., they are supposed to always communicate with their residents and help them.

The bills are then reviewed and debated in the House or Senate—wherever they were initiated. Then if they are approved, they’ll go for approval at the other branch of Congress. For instance, if a bill makes it through the Senate, it must then pass through the House, before it reaches the President of the United States.

The President then may sign a bill, or veto it. If vetoed the bill must start the process over again, hopefully with improvements, if it is to be passed by those three bodies to become a LAW.

Three Bodies Needed to Make a Bill into a LAW:

1. *The House of Representatives*

2. *The Senate*

3. *The President*



***State:***

This same system is in place for a State bill to become a law.

An idea from a district becomes a bill, made by either:

1. *State Senator*

-or-

2. *State Assemblyman/woman*

The bill must pass in either the state senate or assembly, then be passed in the other branch of state government.

Once a state bill is passed in both the senate and the assembly, the Governor of the state must either sign the bill, making it a law... or veto it.

***Local:***

Local laws are made from ideas passed onto our local City Council members.

If they or enough people like an idea, they will present a proposal to City Council. City Council will discuss and debate the idea, then vote on it.

As with State and Federal politics, the city leader we call the Mayor can either sign to approve a law or proposal; or they can veto...

(more on your computer at

<https://law.resource.org/pub/us/code/city/ca/LosAngeles/snapshots/revision-09/LAAC.html>)



On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776, our country decided to cut off our political ties to England.

### ***Declaration of Independence:***

*When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. —Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.*

*He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.*

*He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing*

*importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.*

*He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.*

*He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.*

*He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.*

*He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.*

*He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.*

*He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.*

*He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.*

*He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.*

*He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.*

*He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.*

*He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:*

*For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:*

*For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:*

*For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:*

*For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:*

*For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:*

*For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences  
For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province,  
establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as  
to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same  
absolute rule into these Colonies:*

*For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and  
altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:*

*For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested  
with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.*

*He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection  
and waging War against us.*

*He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and  
destroyed the lives of our people.*

*He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to  
complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with  
circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages,  
and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.*

*He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to  
bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and  
Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.*

*He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to  
bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose  
known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and  
conditions.*

*In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most  
humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated  
injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a  
Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.*

*Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned  
them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an  
unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances  
of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice  
and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred  
to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections  
and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of  
consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces*

*our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.*

*We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.*



## ***U.S. Constitution:***

***After the Declaration of Independence was written and declared, war was fought with England for American independence. Politics and law making continued with the creation of the “Articles of Confederation.” Early nation-building was at work.***

***While the articles are not used as law guidelines today, it’s “child” the United States Constitution is!!***

***The Articles of Confederation were created in 1777 while our country was still at war, and were ratified by the end of the war in 1781.***

***The U.S. Constitution was created in 1787, and was ratified in June of 1788:***

### ***Preamble:***

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

### **Article I.**

#### ***Section 1.***

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

#### ***Section 2.***

The House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states, and the electors in each state shall have the qualifications requisite for electors of the most numerous branch of the state legislature.

No person shall be a Representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty five years<sup>3</sup>, and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen.

Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several states which may be included within this union, according to their respective numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three fifths of all other Persons. The actual Enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of ten years, in such manner as they shall by law direct. The number of Representatives shall not exceed one for every thirty thousand, but each state shall have at least one Representative; and until such enumeration shall be made, the state of New Hampshire shall be entitled to chuse three, Massachusetts eight, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations one, Connecticut five, New York six, New Jersey four, Pennsylvania eight, Delaware one, Maryland six, Virginia ten, North Carolina five, South Carolina five, and Georgia three.

When vacancies happen in the Representation from any state, the executive authority thereof shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies.

The House of Representatives shall choose their speaker and other officers; and shall have the sole power of impeachment.

### ***Section 3.***

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, chosen by the legislature thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.

Immediately after they shall be assembled in consequence of the first election, they shall be divided as equally as may be into three classes. The seats of the Senators of the first class shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of the second class at the expiration of the fourth year, and the third class at the expiration of the sixth year, so that one third may be chosen every second year; and if vacancies happen by resignation, or otherwise, during the recess of the

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<sup>3</sup> First instance of AGE DISCRIMINATION in U.S. legal history

legislature of any state, the executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies.

No person shall be a Senator who shall not have attained to the age of thirty years<sup>4</sup>, and been nine years a citizen of the United States and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state for which he shall be chosen.

The Vice President of the United States shall be President of the Senate, but shall have no vote, unless they be equally divided.

The Senate shall choose their other officers, and also a President pro tempore, in the absence of the Vice President, or when he shall exercise the office of President of the United States.

The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, they shall be on oath or affirmation. When the President of the United States is tried, the Chief Justice shall preside: And no person shall be convicted without the concurrence of two thirds of the members present.

Judgment in cases of impeachment shall not extend further than to removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States: but the party convicted shall nevertheless be liable and subject to indictment, trial, judgment and punishment, according to law.

#### ***Section 4.***

The times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives, shall be prescribed in each state by the legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.

The Congress shall assemble at least once in every year, and such meeting shall be on the first Monday in December, unless they shall by law appoint a different day.

#### ***Section 5.***

Each House shall be the judge of the elections, returns and qualifications of its own members, and a majority of each shall constitute a quorum to do business;

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<sup>4</sup> Second instance of AGE DISCRIMINATION



but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may be authorized to compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner, and under such penalties as each House may provide.

Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two thirds, expel a member.

Each House shall keep a journal of its proceedings, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and the yeas and nays of the members of either House on any question shall, at the desire of one fifth of those present, be entered on the journal.

Neither House, during the session of Congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days, nor to any other place than that in which the two Houses shall be sitting.

### ***Section 6.***

The Senators and Representatives shall receive a compensation for their services, to be ascertained by law, and paid out of the treasury of the United States. They shall in all cases, except treason, felony and breach of the peace, be privileged from arrest during their attendance at the session of their respective Houses, and in going to and returning from the same; and for any speech or debate in either House, they shall not be questioned in any other place.

No Senator or Representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be appointed to any civil office under the authority of the United States, which shall have been created, or the emoluments whereof shall have been increased during such time: and no person holding any office under the United States, shall be a member of either House during his continuance in office.

### ***Section 7.***

All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives; but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other Bills.

Every bill which shall have passed the House of Representatives and the Senate, shall, before it become a law, be presented to the President of the United States; if he approve he shall sign it, but if not he shall return it, with his objections to

that House in which it shall have originated, who shall enter the objections at large on their journal, and proceed to reconsider it. If after such reconsideration two thirds of that House shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other House, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two thirds of that House, it shall become a law. But in all such cases the votes of both Houses shall be determined by yeas and nays, and the names of the persons voting for and against the bill shall be entered on the journal of each House respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the President within ten days (Sundays excepted) after it shall have been presented to him, the same shall be a law, in like manner as if he had signed it, unless the Congress by their adjournment prevent its return, in which case it shall not be a law.

Every order, resolution, or vote to which the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives may be necessary (except on a question of adjournment) shall be presented to the President of the United States; and before the same shall take effect, shall be approved by him, or being disapproved by him, shall be repassed by two thirds of the Senate and House of Representatives, according to the rules and limitations prescribed in the case of a bill.

### ***Section 8.***

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

To borrow money on the credit of the United States;

To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes;

To establish a uniform rule of naturalization, and uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States;

To coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures;

To provide for the punishment of counterfeiting the securities and current coin of the United States;

To establish post offices and post roads;

To promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries;

To constitute tribunals inferior to the Supreme Court;

To define and punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas, and offenses against the law of nations;

To declare war, grant letters of marque and reprisal, and make rules concerning captures on land and water;

To raise and support armies, but no appropriation of money to that use shall be for a longer term than two years;

To provide and maintain a navy;

To make rules for the government and regulation of the land and naval forces;

To provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the union, suppress insurrections and repel invasions;

To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the militia, and for governing such part of them as may be employed in the service of the United States, reserving to the states respectively, the appointment of the officers, and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress;

To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States, and to exercise like authority over all places purchased by the consent of the legislature of the state in which the same shall be, for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings;--And

To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

### ***Section 9.***

The migration or importation of such persons as any of the states now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a tax or duty may be imposed on such importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each person.

The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it.

No bill of attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct, tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.

No tax or duty shall be laid on articles exported from any state.

No preference shall be given by any regulation of commerce or revenue to the ports of one state over those of another: nor shall vessels bound to, or from, one state, be obliged to enter, clear or pay duties in another.

No money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law; and a regular statement and account of receipts and expenditures of all public money shall be published from time to time.

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.

### ***Section 10.***

No state shall enter into any treaty, alliance, or confederation; grant letters of marque and reprisal; coin money; emit bills of credit; make anything but gold and

silver coin a tender in payment of debts; pass any bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts, or grant any title of nobility.

No state shall, without the consent of the Congress, lay any imposts or duties on imports or exports, except what may be absolutely necessary for executing it's inspection laws: and the net produce of all duties and imposts, laid by any state on imports or exports, shall be for the use of the treasury of the United States; and all such laws shall be subject to the revision and control of the Congress.

No state shall, without the consent of Congress, lay any duty of tonnage, keep troops, or ships of war in time of peace, enter into any agreement or compact with another state, or with a foreign power, or engage in war, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent danger as will not admit of delay.

## **Article Two:**

### ***Section 1.***

The executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his office during the term of four years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same term, be elected, as follows:

Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of Senators and Representatives to which the State may be entitled in the Congress: but no Senator or Representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector.

The electors shall meet in their respective states, and vote by ballot for two persons, of whom one at least shall not be an inhabitant of the same state with themselves. And they shall make a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; which list they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of the government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. The person having the greatest number of votes shall be the President, if such number be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if there be more than one who have such majority, and have an equal number of votes, then the House of Representatives shall immediately choose by ballot one of them for President; and if no person have a majority, then

from the five highest on the list the said House shall in like manner choose the President. But in choosing the President, the votes shall be taken by States, the representation from each state having one vote; A quorum for this purpose shall consist of a member or members from two thirds of the states, and a majority of all the states shall be necessary to a choice. In every case, after the choice of the President, the person having the greatest number of votes of the electors shall be the Vice President. But if there should remain two or more who have equal votes, the Senate shall choose from them by ballot the Vice President.

The Congress may determine the time of choosing the electors, and the day on which they shall give their votes; which day shall be the same throughout the United States.

No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained to the age of thirty five years, and been fourteen Years a resident within the United States.

In case of the removal of the President from office, or of his death, resignation, or inability to discharge the powers and duties of the said office, the same shall devolve on the Vice President, and the Congress may by law provide for the case of removal, death, resignation or inability, both of the President and Vice President, declaring what officer shall then act as President, and such officer shall act accordingly, until the disability be removed, or a President shall be elected.

The President shall, at stated times, receive for his services, a compensation, which shall neither be increased nor diminished during the period for which he shall have been elected, and he shall not receive within that period any other emolument from the United States, or any of them.

Before he enter on the execution of his office, he shall take the following oath or affirmation:--"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

## ***Section 2.***

The President shall be commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, and of the militia of the several states, when called into the actual service of the United States; he may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal

officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and he shall have power to grant reprieves and pardons for offenses against the United States, except in cases of impeachment.

He shall have power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur; and he shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, judges of the Supreme Court, and all other officers of the United States, whose appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be established by law: but the Congress may by law vest the appointment of such inferior officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the courts of law, or in the heads of departments.

The President shall have power to fill up all vacancies that may happen during the recess of the Senate, by granting commissions which shall expire at the end of their next session.

### ***Section 3.***

He shall from time to time give to the Congress information of the state of the union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient; he may, on extraordinary occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in case of disagreement between them, with respect to the time of adjournment, he may adjourn them to such time as he shall think proper; he shall receive ambassadors and other public ministers; he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and shall commission all the officers of the United States.

### ***Section 4.***

The President, Vice President and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.

## **Article III**

### ***Section 1.***

The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their

offices during good behaviour, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

### ***Section 2.***

The judicial power shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority;--to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls;--to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction;--to controversies to which the United States shall be a party;--to controversies between two or more states;--between a state and citizens of another state;--between citizens of different states;--between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects.

In all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a state shall be party, the Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction. In all the other cases before mentioned, the Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction, both as to law and fact, with such exceptions, and under such regulations as the Congress shall make.

The trial of all crimes, except in cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.

### ***Section 3.***

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying war against them, or in adhering to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or on confession in open court.

The Congress shall have power to declare the punishment of treason, but no attainder of treason shall work corruption of blood, or forfeiture except during the life of the person attainted.



## **Article IV**

### ***Section 1.***

Full faith and credit shall be given in each state to the public acts, records, and judicial proceedings of every other state. And the Congress may by general laws prescribe the manner in which such acts, records, and proceedings shall be proved, and the effect thereof.

### ***Section 2.***

The citizens of each state shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citizens in the several states.

A person charged in any state with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice, and be found in another state, shall on demand of the executive authority of the state from which he fled, be delivered up, to be removed to the state having jurisdiction of the crime.

No person held to service or labor in one state, under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from such service or labor, but shall be delivered up on claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due.

### ***Section 3.***

New states may be admitted by the Congress into this union; but no new states shall be formed or erected within the jurisdiction of any other state; nor any state be formed by the junction of two or more states, or parts of states, without the consent of the legislatures of the states concerned as well as of the Congress.

The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state.

### ***Section 4.***

The United States shall guarantee to every state in this union a republican form of government, and shall protect each of them against invasion; and on application of the legislature, or of the executive (when the legislature cannot be convened) against domestic violence.

### **Article V**

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; provided that no amendment which may be made prior to the year one thousand eight hundred and eight shall in any manner affect the first and fourth clauses in the ninth section of the first article; and that no state, without its consent, shall be deprived of its equal suffrage in the Senate.

### **Article VI**

All debts contracted and engagements entered into, before the adoption of this Constitution, shall be as valid against the United States under this Constitution, as under the Confederation.

This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The Senators and Representatives before mentioned, and the members of the several state legislatures, and all executive and judicial officers, both of the United States and of the several states, shall be bound by oath or affirmation, to support this Constitution; but no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

### **Article VII**

The ratification of the conventions of nine states, shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution between the states so ratifying the same.



## ***Bill of Rights:***

In order to form an *even more perfect union.....* the Bill of Rights with its ten Amendments to the Constitution was created in September of 1789, ratified in 1791.

They check the power of the government with the Rights of the People:

### **Amendment I**

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

### **Amendment II**

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

### **Amendment III**

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

### **Amendment IV**

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

### **Amendment V**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in

the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

## **Amendment VI**

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

## **Amendment VII**

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

## **Amendment VIII**

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

## **Amendment IX**

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

## **Amendment X**

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.

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The Amendments kept coming over the years, including the 13<sup>th</sup>, outlawing slavery. The 14<sup>th</sup> protecting our 1<sup>st</sup> by law. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment gave the right to vote to women.

Perhaps giving the vote to children is the next amendment to come. In my opinion, the only requirement to cast a vote in public elections should be a desire to help our community, state and nation.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Amendment, lowering the “voting age” from 21 to 18 did not go far enough. We must END AGE DISCRIMINATION, ACTIVATE children, and watch our country run better with FAR LESS CRIME!!!!



Where to find the laws that govern our society:

***Penal Code:***

\*For the California Penal Code, find it online at  
<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/calawquery?codesection=pen>

***Vehicle Code:***

\*For the Vehicle Code in California, click  
<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/vctop/vc/vc.htm>

***Municipal Code:***

All cities have their own laws, *Los Angeles'* code is at  
[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/lamc/municipalcode?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:losangeles\\_ca\\_mc](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/California/lamc/municipalcode?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:losangeles_ca_mc)

***Pasadena, CA:***

[https://www.municode.com/library/ca/pasadena/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://www.municode.com/library/ca/pasadena/codes/code_of_ordinances)

A lot of places make up their own rules, call them “bylaws.” But the above codes including the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights *actually* govern society.



What is not in this book can be searched out online, or PLEASE: visit your local government to ask for more information. At the time of printing this book, I can say that my local State Assemblyman office has been the most helpful and cooperative with literature and information about the way law works in California.

Thank you to the Office of Jimmy Gomez, especially Roberto Gama and Sarah Rascon, intern “Helen” for great books on California legislative and constitutional history—lessons in civics *everyone* should receive!!!







***Final Thought:***

Children, please do better than I have done and take advantage of your life. Live it full when young, tell the people you love that you love them, and trust that the Law comes from love and care.

Obey it, not because I said so, but because *MANY* got together, debated, worked hard, and cared enough to *TRY* to guide us all to right and good behavior. Safe behavior. Clean behavior, rewarding and fulfilling behavior that leads to something called Peace of Mind.

*And... Peace of Mind?*



That's my...

Heaven!!

—Love, Bill