## Detailed Table of Contents

### 1. A Sketch II: Praecipe to Negligence & Contract

- Trespass: 2
- Trespass on the case: 5
- Trespass on the case *on assumpsit*: 9
- Trespass on the case on assumpsit: negligence: 10
- Trespass on the case on assumpsit: contract: 12
- Trespass on the case: *quantum meruit*: 20
- Trespass on the case: *indebitatus assumpsit*: 21
- Trespass on the case: *indebitatus assumpsit* on the *common counts*: 22

### 2. A Note on the Curious Incidents of Debt

- Aristotle: 27
- Hobbes: 28
- Germanic roots: 30
- The early textbooks: 31
- Causes of action: 33
- Bracton: 35
- Taking, covenanting and *quid pro quo*: 37
- Deeds: 40
- Statutes and debt: 45
- Debt overall: 48

### 3. Trespass, The Action on the Case and Tort

- Centralised and local courts: 50
- The forms of action: 51
- Trespass in the royal courts: 52
- The distinction between trespass and trespass “on the case”: 56
- Fault in trespass: 59
- Defining the boundary between trespass and case: 60
- The modern law of tort – trespass and negligence: 65

### 4. Detinue, Trover and Conversion

- Introduction: 68
- Medieval ancestry: 70
- Detinue: 73
The emergence of trover 81
The hegemony of trover 87
The recognition of conversion 92
Australian developments 94
Change from the 19th century 96
A new legal fiction – the conversion of choses in action evidenced by converted documents 98
Affirmation of strict liability 101
Difficulties and obscurities remain 102
Conclusion 103

5. **The Sources of Defamation Law** 106
   Introduction 106
   The ecclesiastical courts 107
   The royal courts 110
   The Star Chamber 115
   Scandalum Magnatum 117
   The local courts 120
   The relevance of the history of defamation in contemporary Australia 122

6. **Legal Professional Privilege** 127
   The law today 128
   The Elizabethan origins of the privilege 128
   The 17th century 132
   Two 18th century state trials 133
   Privilege at the end of the 18th century 142
   Developments in the 19th century 144
   Litigation privilege 152
   Discovery in the common law 155
   Litigation privilege established 156
   A trilogy of late 19th century cases 157
   Third party communications 160
   What is legal advice? 161
   Convergence? 163
   A fundamental common law right or immunity 166
   The Evidence Acts 170
   A new name? 171
   Concluding remarks 172
### 7. Milestones in Negligence in the 19th and Early 20th Century

- Legal doctrines restricting the development of negligence: 176
- Established categories of liability: 181
- The reasonable man: 193
- The concept of a duty of care: 195

### 8. Contract Development Through the Looking-Glass of Implied Terms

- Early history: 201
- Rise of “intention”: 203
- Custom: 210
- Trade usage: 211
- Development of tests of intention: 217
- “Rebirth of relationships” – modern implication in law: 225
- Conclusion: 231

### 9. Why the History of Restitution Matters

- Introduction: 234
  - The medieval pre-history: Gaps left by covenant, debt and account: 235
  - The rise of assumpsit: 239
  - The common indebitatus counts: 243
  - Lord Mansfield and Sir William Blackstone: 247
  - Some lessons from the history of restitution: 251

### 10. Lord Mansfield

- Mansfield’s world: 255
- Early life: 256
- Barrister and law officer: 257
- Chief Justice of the King’s Bench: 260
- Later years, retirement and death: 263
- Mansfield, commerce and the law: 264
- The common counts and the genesis of modern restitution: 271
- Somerset’s Case: 275
- The defence of illegality: 278
- Two notable events: 282
- Personality: 286
- Conclusion: 290
## DETAILED TABLE OF CONTENTS

11. **Money and Bills of Exchange** 291
    - Introduction 291
    - History and development of bills of exchange 300

12. **The History of Cheques and Banking** 323
    - Introduction 323
    - From moneychangers to bankers: The Continent 323
    - From moneychangers to bankers: England 330
    - Conclusion 341

13. **Assignment** 342
    - Introduction 342
    - Choses in action 344
    - Assignment of choses in action 353
    - Common law exceptions 357
    - The approach of equity 360
    - The reaction of the common law 362
    - The statutory regime for legal assignment 363
    - Conclusion 364

14. **Agency** 366
    - Introduction 366
    - Meaning of agency 366
    - Authority 367
    - Liability in agency 367
    - Historical categories of agent 368
    - Partnership 369
    - The history of agency – an overview 369
    - Agency and the action of account 369
    - Agency and the action of covenant 371
    - Agency and the action in debt 372
    - Agency and the action of indebitatus assumpsit 373
    - *Slade’s Case* and agency 373
    - Link between assumpsit and authority 374
    - Further interplay between indebitatus assumpsit and agency 375
    - Agency and mistake 376
    - Agents as fiduciaries 377
    - Apparent authority and partnership 378
    - Agency and vicarious liability 380
    - Conclusions 382
15. **Corporations** 384
   - Introduction 384
   - The early corporations (pre-1720) 385
   - Early use in commercial enterprises 387
   - The Bubble Act period (1720-1825) 390
   - After the repeal of the Bubble Act (1825-1844) 395
   - Joint Stock Companies Act of 1844 398
   - Difficulties with the 1844 Act 400
   - The introduction of limited liability 402
   - Modern Acts 405
   - Separate legal personality confirmed 407
   - Directors’ responsibilities and disclosure obligations 409
   - The Australian experience 410
   - Conclusion 412

16. **The History of Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law in England and Australia** 415
   - Law and history 416
   - The meanings and uses of “bankruptcy” and “insolvency” 416
   - Debt and law in ancient and medieval times 418
   - Bankruptcy 1541-1800 423
   - Bankruptcy and insolvency law in the 19th century 433
   - Australia 448
   - List of abbreviations of English statutes 460