For our first week of classes (so, two classes) please read, think about, and prepare to discuss the following:

Chapter I
Chapter II, pages 8-28

I believe in discussing the material in depth and with as much clarity as it is possible to achieve.

As you read the material, pay attention to the following three themes, all of which are important to your growth as legal thinkers.

(1) **Language**
   
The law is a language that you will learn to read, speak, and write.
   
   In Chapter I, notice that there is a vocabulary of terms to describe the stages in the trial process (e.g., "discovery," "directed verdict," "summary judgment").
   
   When you are reading cases, notice that you are learning the language of rules (e.g., the definition of Battery) and also other words that will become part of your legal vocabulary (e.g., "gravamen," "threshold consideration," "dispositive").

(2) **Process**
   
An essential part of understanding the legal process is understanding the way a case moves through the system. Chapter I introduces you to the procedural steps of the trial process. Pay attention to the roles played by lawyers, judges, and juries.

   *Ghassemieh v. Schafer* is in our textbook to help you learn some important lessons about the trial process, the appellate process, and the consequences of bad lawyering. At trial the plaintiff’s lawyer made several serious mistakes. What were they? How did these mistakes affect the jury? How did these mistakes affect the appellate court’s decision? How did all of this affect his client?

(3) **Structure**
   
Thinking about law requires you to understand how legal concepts are compartmentalized.

In Torts the two most basic compartments, or categories, are Intentional Torts and Negligence. Even though our study of Torts begins with Intentional Torts, *Ghassemieh v. Schafer* is a case that discusses both the Intentional Tort of Battery and the cause of action called Negligence. Why?

Each Intentional Tort is structured according to a set of elements. What are the elements of Battery, of Assault, and of False Imprisonment? What is the one element that they all share?