

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	x
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xii
<i>Introductory remarks</i>	xiii
<i>List of cases</i>	xvii
<i>List of statutes and texts</i>	xxxiv
1 Theory and method: background to the law of obligations	1
The epistemological dilemma	1
Institutional plan	2
Codes and method	3
English legal mentality	4
Institutional system and the common law	8
2 History and structure of the law of obligations	10
Real and personal remedies and rights	10
Divisions and subdivisions of private law	12
Public law	14
Contract	15
Delict	18
Quasi delict (and liability without fault)	21
Quasi-contract (and unjust enrichment)	23
Alternative approaches	25
3 General theory of obligations	27
Formation of an obligation	27
Content of an obligation	29
Content and rescission	31
Level of obligational duty	32
Obligations and the role of fault	33
Debt and damages actions	36
Extra-contractual liability	38
Obligations as rights	40
Abuse of rights	41
Obligations as property	44
Transfer of obligation rights	46

Extinction of an obligation	46
4 Obligations and the common law	48
Personal actions at common law (forms of action)	48
Causes of action	51
Contract and tort	53
Restitution (unjust enrichment)	55
Remedies	57
Injunctions	59
Specific performance in equity	60
Damages	61
Debt and account	63
Restitutionary interest	65
Rescission	66
5 Contractual obligations: general provisions	69
General considerations	69
Definition of contract	70
Contract and remedies	73
Contract and rights	77
Classification of contracts	78
Bailment and contract	82
Public and private law contracts	83
Commercial and consumer contracts	84
Freedom of contract	85
Good faith	86
Domain of contract	88
6 Enforcing contracts	90
Contract and methodology	90
Formation models	93
Cause (<i>causa</i>)	94
Agreement (<i>conventio</i>)	94
Promise (<i>promissio</i>)	95
Promise and agreement	97
Enforceable promises	99
Difficult cases	101
Absence of clarity	104
Absence of consensus	105
Intention to create legal relations	106
Revocation of an offer	107
Acceptance	108

Consideration	110
Variation of existing contracts	112
Consideration and third parties	114
Deed of covenant	116
7 Escaping from contracts	117
Defective contracts	117
Defective contracts and remedies	120
Implied condition	122
European approach	123
Property problems	123
Fraud and duress	125
Capacity	128
Illegality	129
Cancelled contracts	131
Non-performance of a contract	132
8 Unperformed contracts and appropriate remedies	133
Interpretation and liability	133
Differences of approach	135
Terms	136
Conditions and warranties	137
Implied terms	139
Unfair terms	141
Performance and non-performance of the contract	142
Onerous performance	144
Non-performance and exclusion clauses	145
Performance and third parties	148
Non-performance and termination	149
Non-performance and agreement	150
9 Tortious obligations: general provisions	152
Civilian approach	152
English approach	154
Definitional considerations	156
Purpose and policy of tort	158
Actions for damages	159
Aims of the law of tort	160
Tort and methodology	163
Policy and functionalism	166
Interests and rights	168
Axiology and argumentation	169

Statutory interpretation	170
Methodology: concluding remarks	172
10 Liability and intentional harm	174
Liability and fault	174
Liability for individual acts: general elements	176
Intentional harm	179
Intentional torts	181
Intentional torts and methodology	191
11 Liability for unintentional harm	193
Tort of negligence	193
Breach of duty	194
Duty of care	197
Extension of duty of care	200
Methodological approach to duty	201
Economic loss	203
Psychological damage (nervous shock)	206
Omissions	209
Public bodies	210
Human rights	212
Comparative reflections	213
Unlawful acts	216
12 Liability for things	219
Liability for moveable things	219
Dangerous products	220
Defective equipment	222
Animals	223
Motor vehicles	224
Aircraft	225
Land and buildings: harm on the premises	225
Land and buildings: harm off the premises	229
Liability for dangerous things	234
Occupier's liability: methodological considerations	236
13 Liability for people	239
Vicarious liability	239
Theory of vicarious liability	242
Non-delegable duty	244
Owners of motor vehicles	247
Publishers	248

14	Liability for words	249
	Deceit and negligence	249
	Defamation	251
	Beyond defamation	253
	Intellectual property rights	255
	Privacy	256
	Professional liability	258
15	Escaping liability	263
	Causation: introduction	263
	Theories of causation	265
	Level 1: actionability	269
	Level 2: cause in fact	272
	Loss of a chance	273
	Overlapping causes and overlapping damage	278
	<i>Novus actus interveniens</i>	280
	Level 3: remoteness of damage	283
	Untypical damage	287
	Level 4: causation and remedies	288
	Measure of damages	290
16	Beyond contract and tort: restitution	295
	Liability for gain	295
	Enrichment	297
	Expense of another	299
	'Unjust' (<i>sans cause</i>)	300
	Remedies and unjust enrichment	301
	Equitable remedies	305
	Tracing	307
	Present status of restitution	309
17	Transnational law of obligations?	312
	Possibility of harmonisation	313
	Harmonisation through science and system	314
	Harmonisation through casuistic methods	318
	Obstacles to harmonisation	322
	Role of comparative law	325
	Obligations and property	327
	Spirit of non-codification	330
	Conclusion: abandoning the obligations category	331
	<i>Bibliography</i>	334
	<i>Index</i>	341