

# ***PROPERTY LAW GUIDEBOOK***

## ***SECOND EDITION***

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### **PROBLEM SOLVING FOR PROPERTY LAW**

#### **The IRAC method**

Like for all substantive law subjects, there is a set way in which to answer problem questions relating to property law. This involves first of all identifying the issues in the problem, then stating the rules, principles or law that relate to those issues. This law then needs to be applied to the specific facts given in the problem before reaching a conclusion. Such a system is often referred to as the either the IRAC, IPAC or ILAC method:

I – Issues

R/P/L – Rules, principles or law

A – Application or argument

C – Conclusion

It does not matter which term you use to refer to it as they are essentially the same system. While IRAC, IPAC or ILAC may appear to be a rigid system, it should be noted that a good answer will often need to merge some aspects of this system, particularly the rules and application stages. Thus, how IRAC, IPAC or ILAC is best applied will vary depending on the actual problem that is being answered. A number of problems relating to various areas of property law have therefore been presented at the end of some chapters. Suggested answers and some comments explaining the approaches to the questions have been made available online.

Property law involves extensive legislation and therefore, when examining the rules or law for a particular problem, one of the first considerations is which statute applies. Due to the fact that there are different statutes in each state, the problems presented here have been deliberately written to reduce the need for reliance on statutes. Students should therefore be aware that for most of their exam questions, a greater use of the relevant statutes will almost certainly be required. It is also suggested that students should also consult with their lecturer or tutor in regard to how they expect an answer to be constructed, since each suggested answer is just one of a number of ways that a particular problem may be answered.