

What's the Meaning of This?

Making Sense of Statutory Interpretation

Emily Johnson-Liu
Asst. State Prosecuting Attorney

1

Roadmap

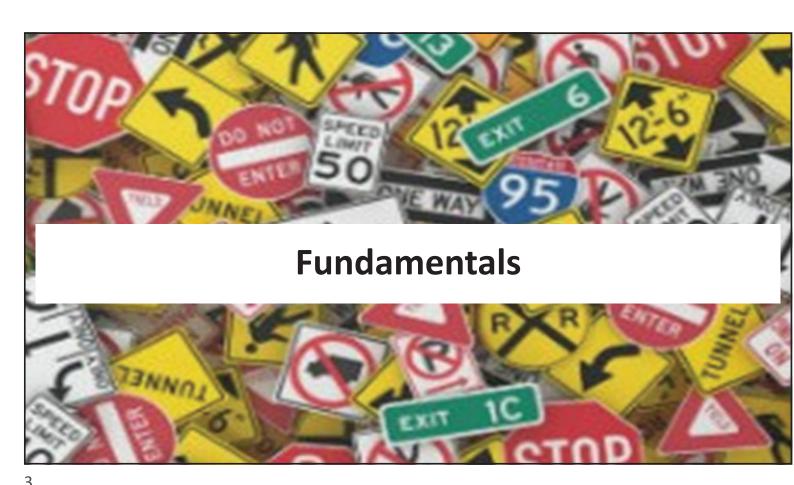
Theory

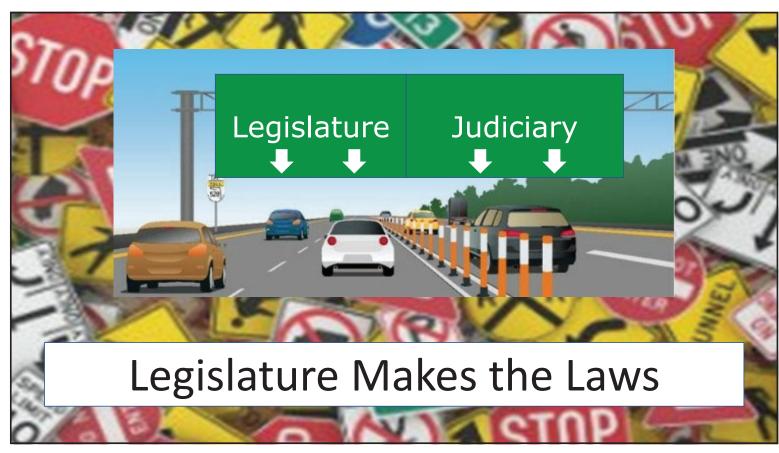
- CCA will observe "time-honored canons" that "esteem TEXTUALISM"
- Fodder to Refute Opponent's Arguments

Texas Law: Code Construction Act vs. Boykin

Doing the Interpretive Work

- What to look at, When
- How Canons Relate to Each Other

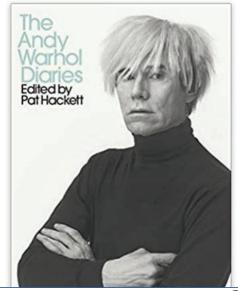






Need for Objectivity

5



Legislators

- Don't speak for everyone
- Can't always anticipate circumstances of how a law could apply
- Can't always agree on how it would apply
- → Legislative History isn't the law

Danger of Looking to Legislative Record/History





Find the full text of this and thousands of other resources from leading experts in dozens of legal practice areas in the <u>UT Law CLE eLibrary (utcle.org/elibrary)</u>

Title search: What's the Meaning of This? Making Sense of Statutory Interpretation

First appeared as part of the conference materials for the 2023 Robert O. Dawson Conference on Criminal Appeals session "What's the Meaning of This? Making Sense of Statutory Interpretation"