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An Introduction to the Law

**Divisions of Law**

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# Sources of Law

three main sources of law in Canada:

- statute law
  - constitutional law
  - common law
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# statute law

...law originating from the passing of laws by the legislative branch (when bills become laws)

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# constitutional law

...law originating from the Canadian Constitution

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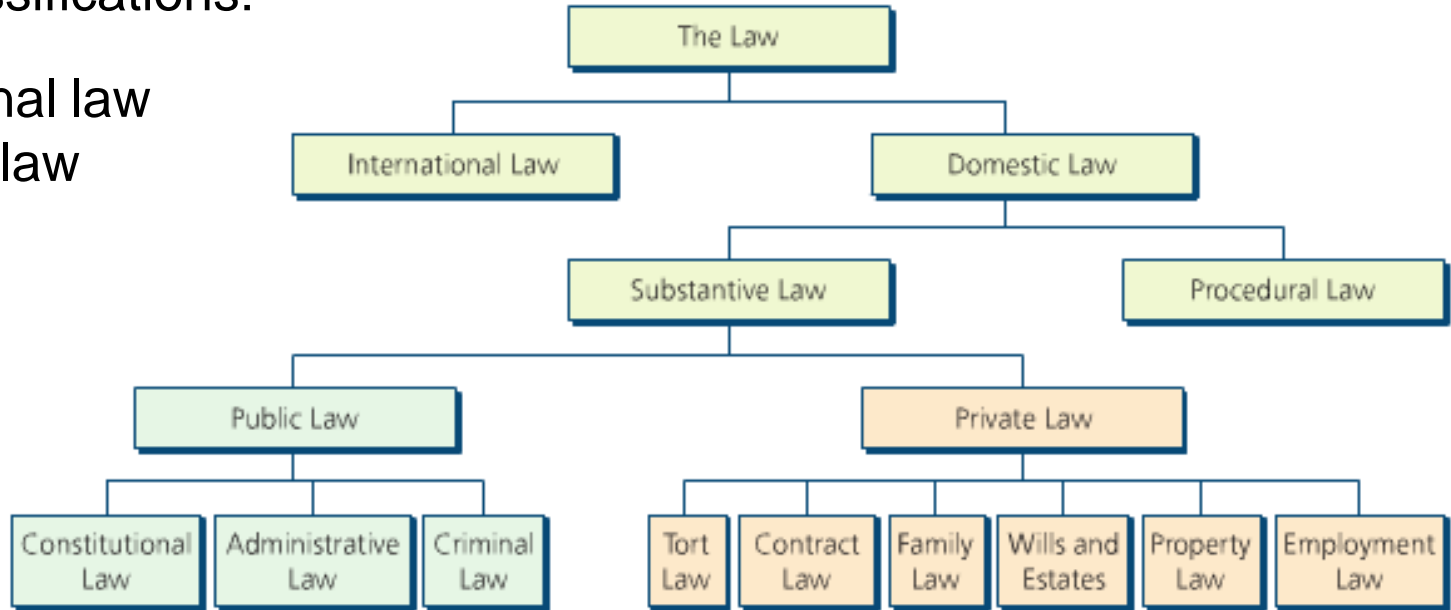
# common law

...law originating from decisions made by judges in previous cases

# Legal Classifications

First level classifications:

- International law
- Domestic law



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# international law

...body of law that governs the relationships between countries

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# domestic law

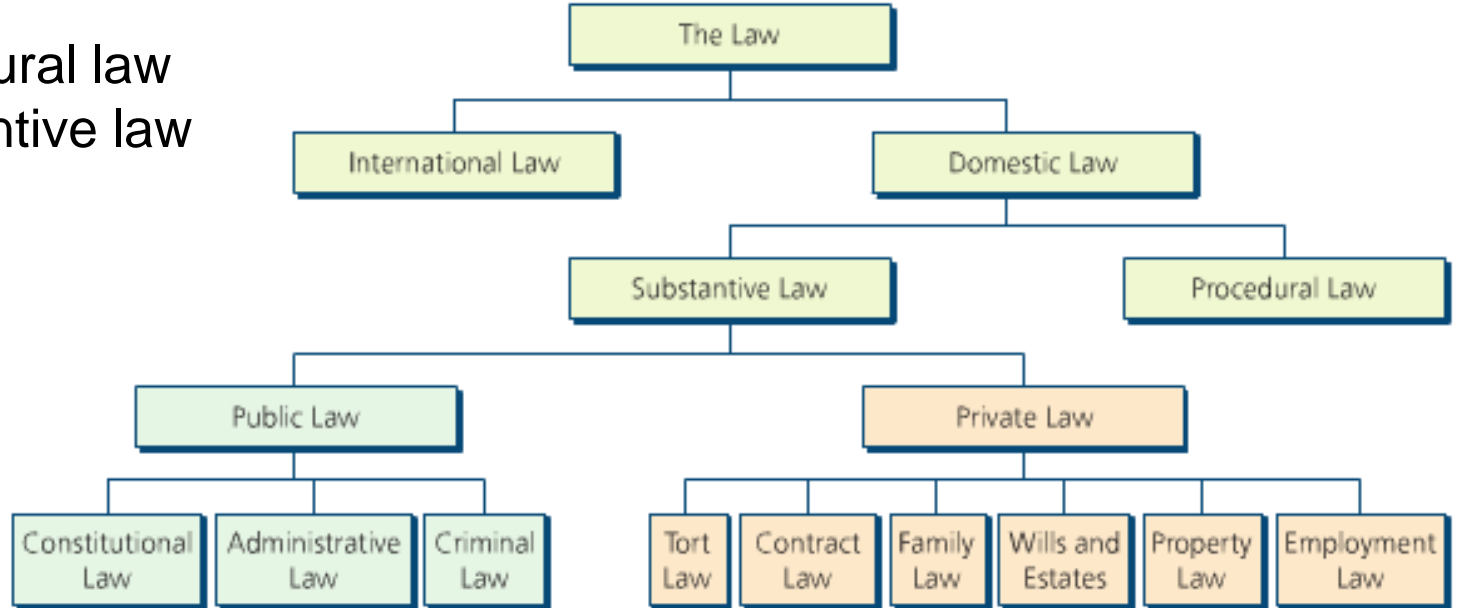
...body of law that applies to situations within the country of Canada



# Domestic Law

Domestic law further divided into:

- Procedural law
- Substantive law



# procedural law

...laws that establish the methods of enforcing the rights and obligations of substantive law (ie. 'how' laws are applied/enforced)

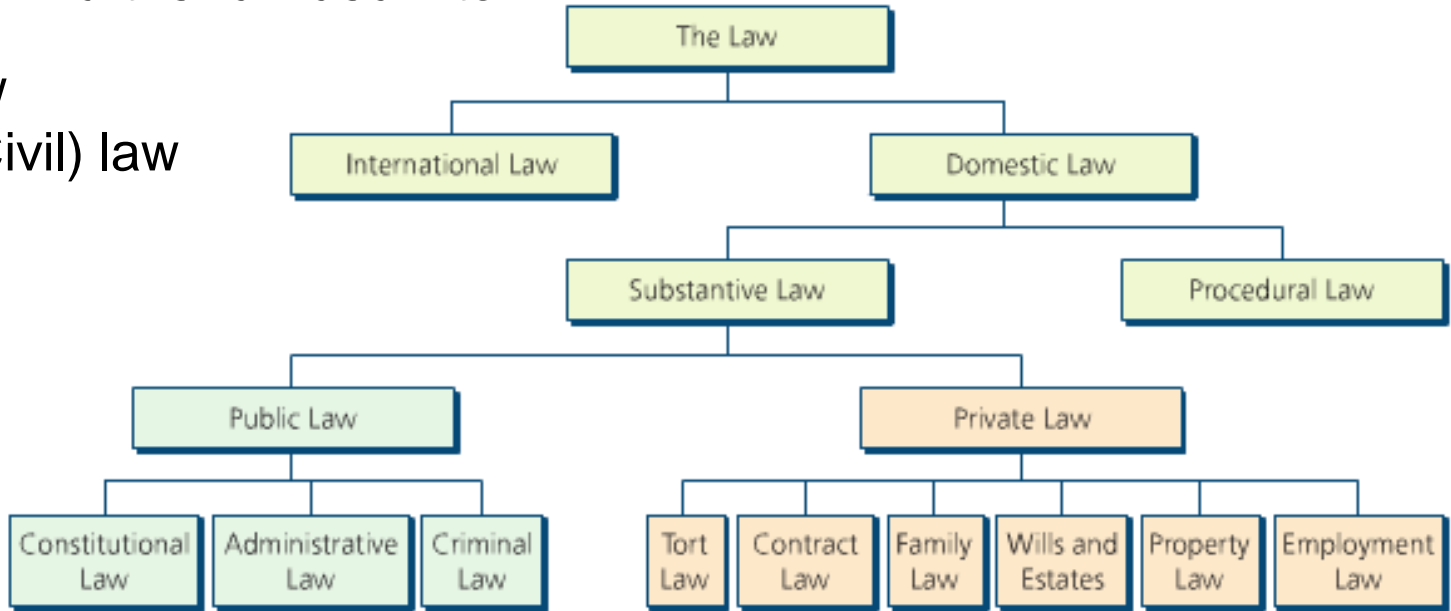
# substantive law

...law that defines the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of citizens and government (ie. the content of the law - statute and common)

# Substantive Law

Substantive law further divided into:

- Public law
- Private (Civil) law



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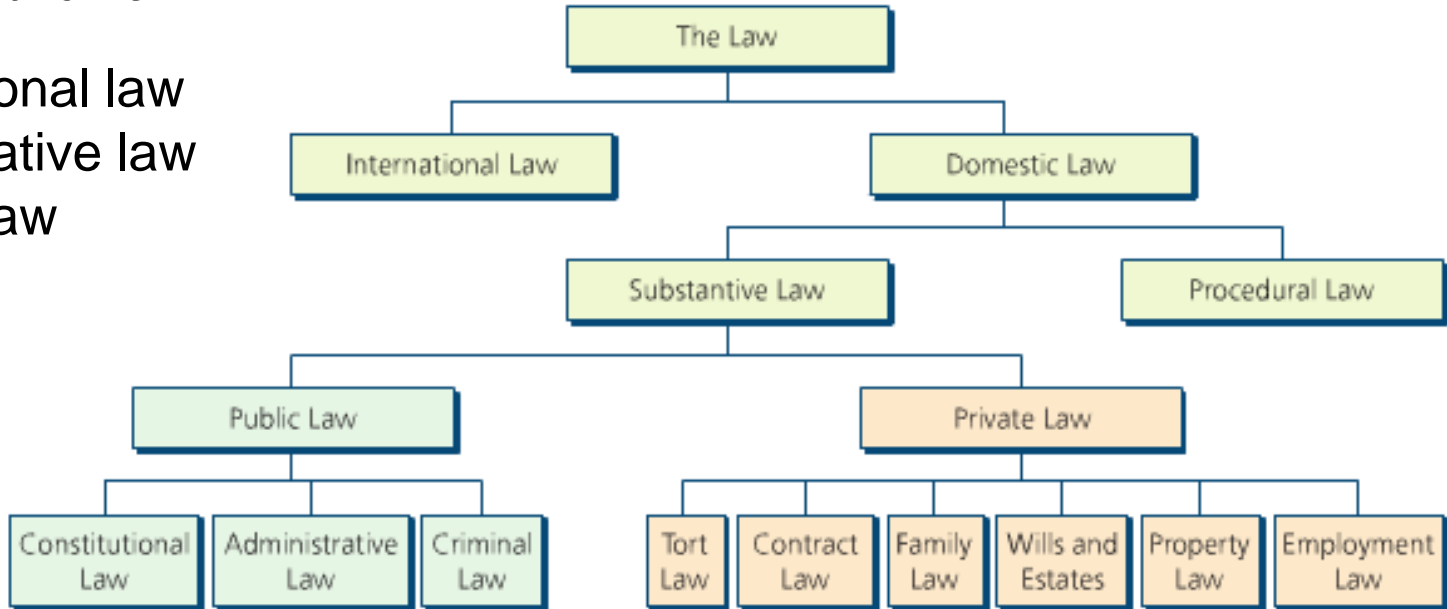
# public law

...area of law concerned with the relationship between individuals and the state (or gov't and people)

# Public Law

## 3 Types of Public Law:

- Constitutional law
- Administrative law
- Criminal law



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# constitutional law (again)

...law originating from the Canadian Constitution (outlines structures of and division of power of fed., prov., & territorial gov'ts. Set in Constitution Act 1982)

# — administrative law

...area of law concerned with the relationship between people and government agencies, boards, tribunals (LCB, CRTC)



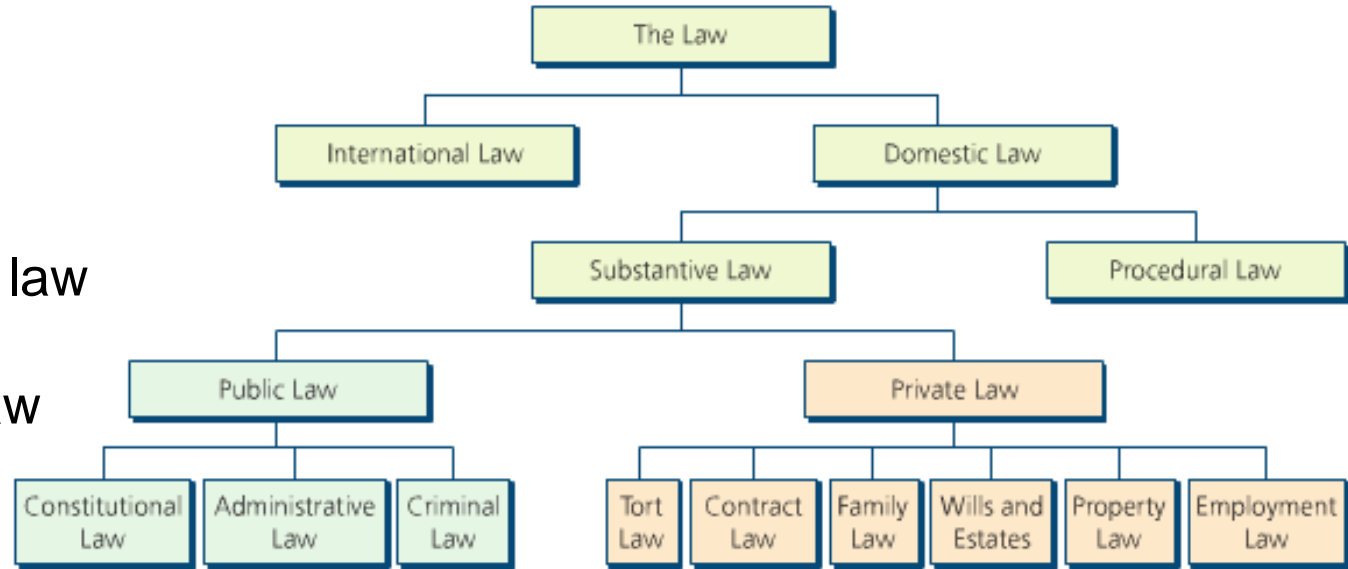
# criminal law

...area of law concerned with identifying crimes, and the punishments/ penalties that follow

# Civil (Private) Law

## 6 Types of Civil/Private Law:

- tort law
- contract law
- family law
- wills & estates law
- property law
- employment law



# tort law

...category of civil law that holds people accountable for harm caused another person, whether intended or not, from which compensation may be awarded (ie. malpractice, negligence)

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# contract law

...civil law branch that sets out rules regarding agreements between people and/or organizations – outlines requirements for legally binding contracts

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# family law

...civil law branch dealing with legal aspects of family life (relationships b/w spouses or partners, b/w parents and children; custody, support, separation & divorce, property division, etc. – constantly changing)

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# wills & estates law

...civil law area focused on the division and distribution of property after death

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# property law

...area of civil law that outlines the ownership rights of property (controls use, enjoyment, and rental property)

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# employment law

...civil law area concerning the relationship between employers and employees – labour law (minimum wage, working conditions, etc)