Chapter Review for Chapters 1 and 2 due Jan 29

Question One
Assume that in 1942, in the case Mayor Johnson vs. State of Mind, the highest court in State of Mind ruled that on a telephone party line priority must be given to calls by the mayor or other public official, even if the calls were personal, not professional. The court did not want to have to determine each time whether a government official’s call was personal or professional. The ruling meant that when the mayor or government official picked up the telephone on a party line, everyone else must immediately hang up their phones. Assume that a party telephone line was common in the 1930s-1950s; nearly every household in a neighborhood was on one. Multiple subscribers shared one phone number; each telephone in each subscriber’s household was connected to the same telephone line. (See this Wikipedia entry for more information)

In 2017, Mayor Jones of Sim City (a town in State of Mind) ordered Pa Bell, the local telephone company to block all the city’s cell phone lines so that the mayor could call one number in an effort to stop online gambling in her city. Pa Bell refused and the city sued. That case is before the judges in the highest court in State of Mind. How should the court rule? In your answer discuss the principle of stare decisis.

Question Two
Describe the common law as a source of laws in the United States. In your answer, refer to the origin of common law and how the U.S. common law doctrine differs from other countries’ civil law doctrines. Explain the positives and negatives of each doctrine and explain the impact of the common law on the U.S. legal system.
Question Three
Explain some differences and similarities between Kantian ethics and Rawls’ social justice theory. In your answers, be sure to explain each of the ethical theories first then discuss the differences and similarities.

Question Four
Explain the characteristics of the natural law school of thought. In your explanation, identify one or two of the issues with that school of thought.

Question Five

“A recent court order sentencing a cat to house arrest after it mauled at least six neighbors raises questions about how the law tries to safeguard public safety and mediate disputes when pets get out of control. Should communities ban pet pit bulls or venomous snakes? How about pet sheep, pigs and poultry?” Protecting People and their Pets, Justice Talking.

a. Under the law, is a pet property? Should it be property? What about “loss of companionship?” Should the law provide compensation for loss of companionship when someone kills an animal? Explain.

b. Pick an ethical theory and apply it to this issue. Does the result differ from the legal analysis?

c. Why is it important to distinguish facts from opinions on this issue?

d. What conclusions have you reached personally about the issue and why?

When you respond, be sure to incorporate information from the textbook