

BOOKS & FILMS ON LAW AND LAW SCHOOL

You may wish to read one or two of these books or see a few of these films to get yourself into the spirit of law study. You are not required to read any of these books at this time.

BOOKS

BOOKS ABOUT LAW SCHOOL

A Student's Guide to Legal Analysis: Thinking like a Lawyer, Patrick M. McFadden, 2001

The author provides law students with a way of organizing and thinking about their coursework and about the cases, law, and regulations they confront every day. The book is based on the premise that there are three primary questions that recur in different guises in legal practice: Is there a law? Has it been violated? What will be done about it?

Bridging the Gap between College and Law School, Ruta K. Stropus and Charlotte D. Taylor, 2009

Explains the why, how, and what of the law, providing context, process, and problems in addition to general advice or black letter law and some practice problems.

Later-in-Life Lawyers, Charles Cooper, 2012

The author addresses both the admission process and surviving first year and non-academic hurdles for non-traditional ("older") law students.

Law School Confidential, Robert H. Miller, 2011

Written by students, for students, by recent graduates from across the country offering realistic and informative advice about what law school is really like.

One L of a Ride, Andrew McClurg, 2013

The author goes beyond practical skills advice to examine the habits and behaviors of the best students he sees each year to figure out exactly what it is they are doing better than everyone else.

Starting off Right in Law School, Carolyn J. Nygren, 2011

Introduces new law students to the practice and study of law by following a lawsuit from its inception through the appeals process, illustrating what lawyers actually do, how they prepare, how they interact with clients and in courtrooms, how a lawsuit proceeds, and how students can effectively read and analyze cases, outline, and apply what they have learned on exams.

What the L? 25 Things We Wish we'd Known Before Going to Law School, Kelsey May, Samantha Roberts & Elizabeth Shelton, 2010

Three students offer a completely candid student perspective on every aspect of law school, from classmates to bar review, and outlines to studying abroad.

The Zen of Law School Success, Chad Noreuil, 2012

Noreuil applies the principles of Zen as a foundation for success in law school. Based on the theory that success is about balance-between studying and other aspects of your life, as well as balancing your study time between subjects, knowing your universe, knowing yourself, and staying focused on your path.

BOOKS ABOUT LEGAL CAREERS AND PRACTICE

50 Unique Legal Paths, Ursula Furi-Perry,

A law degree has tremendous versatility and provide diverse career choices. This handbook covers non-practicing legal positions, boom practice areas for attorneys, and some unique positions outside the legal field for which the JD is a natural fit.

Best Friends at the Bar, Susan Smith Blakely, 2012

This book candidly addresses the problems unique to women in the practice of law.

Managing your Legal Career, Richard L. Hermann, 2011

To compete in today's tight job market, you need up-to-date, reliable information on how to manage this phase of your legal career. This guide is divided into short, specific sections that touch on what you will need to do before your job hunt, while you are looking, as you are sitting in your interview, once you have gotten an offer, and all the steps in between.

Small Firms, Big Opportunity, Linda Calvert Hanson & Samantha C. Williams, 2012

Small-to-midsized law firms are the big legal employer. The authors provide practical steps to identify where jobs are, how to get hired, and how to succeed in the new legal economy.

The Legal Career Guide: From Law Student to Lawyer, Gary A. Munneke & Ellen S. Wayne, 2009

Some of the topics discussed include planning a legal career, identifying your skills, different areas of practice, and the law school experience and the skills students get from law school.

The New What You Can Do with a Law Degree, Larry Richard, Tanya Hanson, & Deborah L. Arron, 2012

Based on a well-established principle that the better the fit between your career identity and your job, the greater your long-term satisfaction. The authors put forth a five-part model that will help identify your career identity so that you can find lifelong satisfaction in traditional law practice or through alternative work or career choices.

BOOKS ON REAL LEGAL STORIES

A Civil Action, Jonathan Harr & Marty Asher (editor), 1995

Two large corporations are accused of causing the deaths of children from water contamination. The lawyer representing the bereaved parents nearly loses everything, including his sanity.

Chasing Gideon, Karen Houppert, 2013

Marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Gideon v. Wainwright, which guaranteed the right to legal counsel for all criminal defendants. ACLU Director Anthony Romero says this book, "illustrates the scope and seriousness of the indigent defense crisis."

Simple Justice, Richard Kluger, 2004

A definitive history of the landmark case Brown v. Board of Education and the epic struggle for racial equality in this country.

The Buffalo Creek Disaster, Gerald M. Stern, 2012

An inspiring story of the suit of survivors of a coal-mining disaster. The book tells the story of the litigation against the company and the creative work by attorneys committed to see that justice was done.

NOVELS INVOLVING LAW

Bleak House, Charles Dickens

Originally published in twenty monthly installments in 1852 and 1853, Dickens' novel is built around an attack on the English Court of Chancery. It is viewed by many as the single greatest attack on law, lawyers, and the legal system in the English language.

In Cold Blood: A True Account of a Multiple Murder and Its Consequences, Truman Capote, 1965

A best-selling true crime novel that examines the complex psychological relationship between two parolees who together commit a mass murder, as well as the lives of the victims and the effect of the crime on the community where they lived.

To Kill a Mockingbird, Harper Lee, 1960

A Pulitzer Prize-winning masterwork of honor and injustice in the Deep South and the heroism of one man in the face of blind and violent hatred. The narrator's father, Atticus Finch, is a moral hero to many readers, as well as a model of integrity for the legal profession.

FILMS ABOUT LAW, LAWYERS, AND LAW SCHOOL

Anatomy of a Murder, 1959

Outstanding courtroom drama of a murder trial. The defendant insists he suffered temporary insanity after the victim raped his wife.

A Civil Action, 1998

Drama of an attorney who gets caught up in a tragedy. His law firm fails from the financial burden of representing families of children who died from exposure to toxic wastes of companies. Opposing attorneys use time, money, and trickery to prevent a just solution.

Erin Brockovich, 2000

An unemployed single mother becomes a legal assistant and by diligent work and persistence almost single-handedly brings down a California power-company accused of polluting a city's water supply. Based on a true story.

A Few Good Men, 1992

A rookie military lawyer with no real courtroom experience defends Marines accused of murder who insist they were acting on orders of a military icon. He discovers he has a talent for the courtroom and a thirst for justice.

Fracture, 2007

A young prosecutor climbing the career ladder toward success finds an unlikely opponent in a manipulative criminal who he is prosecuting for murdering his wife.

Just Cause, 1995

A young black man accused of murdering a young girl turns to a law professor to prove his innocence. The prosecutors and police are not interested in the exculpatory evidence he finds.

Legally Blonde, 2001

A comedic look at Harvard Law School life. Elle Wood gets dumped by her East Coast blue-blood boyfriend just before he starts law school at Harvard. She decides to follow him and win him back. Elle acs the LSAT, prepares a video personal statement, and is admitted to Harvard. The movie shows academic one-upmanship, cattiness, and arrogance as Elle makes her own very personal statement through campus and law school.

The Lincoln Lawyer, 2011

A sleazy defense attorney has a crisis of conscience when he represents a wealthy client with an apparently foolproof plan to beat the system.

My Cousin Vinny, 1992

A couple of New York teenagers are on their way to college in California when they get delayed in the south. A series of circumstances land them in jail and in big trouble charged with 1st degree murder. The family sends cousin Vinny to the rescue. Vinny is a mechanic turned lawyer who has recently passed the bar after multiple attempts. His first courtroom experience is trying to get the teenagers free.

Philadelphia, 1993


A gay lawyer in a prestigious Philadelphia law firm is fired after partners discover he had AIDS. He turns to a homophobic personal injury lawyer to represent him in his suit against his former employer.

To Kill a Mockingbird, 1962

Atticus Finch, a lawyer in a small Alabama town in the 1930s is appointed by a judge to defend a black man accused of raping a white woman

Twelve Angry Men, 1957

A jury room drama in which what started as an open and shut case of patricide becomes a muddle as the prejudices of each juror color his perceptions of the evidence.



A great way to meet and learn about your classmates and get information you can use to make your transition to Nova Law be a smooth one. Dozens of students in the entering class are already part of the group and talking about finding a place to live, commuting issues, the Evening Division, financial aid, roommates, summer plans, and creating social events. Community building at its best!

[NSU Law 2017 Entering Class](https://www.facebook.com/groups/340985029593359/)
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