

BOOKS AND FILMS ON LAW AND LAW SCHOOL

You may wish to read one or more 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.

BOOKS

BOOKS ABOUT LAW SCHOOL

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 on 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 study 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 & PRACTICE

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 and 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 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.

Whose Monet? An Introduction to the American Legal System

John Humbach, 2016

An accessible and appealing orientation to the American legal system and basic concepts of modern civil litigation. The story of a real lawsuit, a sharply contested dispute over the ownership of a valuable stolen artwork from client intake through the trial and various appeals.

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 mode of integrity for the legal profession.

FILMS ABOUT LAW, LAWYERS, & 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 lawyers 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.

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. 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.

Philadelphia, 1993

A gay lawyer in a prestigious law firm is fired after partners discovers he has 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.