Optional Reading List

Often students will ask what they should read to prepare for law school. While we encourage students to read for pleasure, the following is a list of books suggested by law school faculty and administrators.

Law Study and Law School

*Academic Legal Writing: Law Review Articles, Student Notes, Seminar Papers, and Getting on Law Review* by Eugene Volokh
*The Bramble Bush* by Karl Llewellyn
*Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams* by Richard Michael Fischl
*Introduction to the Study & Practice of Law* by Kenney Hegland
*The Language of Law School: Learning to “Think Like a Lawyer”* by Elizabeth Mertz
*Law, Law Study, and the Lawyer’s Role* by James Moliterno and Fredric Ira Lederer
*Law School Without Fear: Strategies for Success* by Helene Shapo and Marshall Shapo
*Thinking Like a Lawyer: A New Introduction to Legal Reasoning* by Frederick Schauer

Legal Cases and Practicing Law

*Confessions of a Criminal Lawyer* by S. Wishman
*The Buffalo Creek Disaster* by Gerald Stern
*A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr
*A Crime of Self-Defense* by George Fletcher
*The End of Obscenity* by Charles Rembar
*Gideon’s Trumpet* by Anthony Lewis
*The Lawyers* by Martin Mayer
*My Life in Court* by Louis Nizer
*Simple Justice* by Richard Kluger
*Unequal Justice* by J. Auerbach
*Unlikely Heroes* by Jack Bass
*Women In Law* by C.F. Epstein

Historical

*The American Judicial Tradition* by G. Edward White
*The American Supreme Court* by Robert McClosky
*East West Street* by Philippe Sands
*A History of American Law* by Lawrence Friedman
*The Least Dangerous Branch* by Alexander Bickel
*Major Legal Systems of the World* by David & Brierly
*My Beloved Word* by Sonia Sotomayor
*Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik
*Tyranny on Trial* by Whitney R. Harris
Theoretical

*Anatomy of the Law* by Lon Fuller

*The Death of Contract* by Grant Gilmore

*Introduction to Legal Reasoning* by Edward Hirs Levi

*The Nature of the Judicial Process* by Benjamin Cardozo

*The Power and Purpose of International Law* by Mary Ellen O’Connell

*The Spirit of the Common Law* by Roscoe Pound