SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST

Frequently we are asked if there are any books we would recommend that law students read before they begin law school. We believe the following books give students a sense of what law school is like, the history of American law, and why lawyers do the work they do.

Preparing for Law School:

Christensen, Leah M. Learning Outside the Box: A Handbook for Law Students Who Learn Differently. (Carolina Academic Press, 2010).

Atticus Falcon, Planet Law School II: What You Need to Know (Before You Go), but Didn't Know to Ask…and No One Else Will Tell You (2d ed., Fine Print Press 2003).

Ann L. Iijima, The Law Student's Pocket Mentor: From Surviving to Thriving (Aspen Publishers 2007).

Andrew J. McClurg, 1L of a Ride: A Well Traveled Professor's Roadmap to Success in the First Year of Law School (West 2008).

Ruth Ann McKinney, Reading Like a Lawyer: Time-Saving Strategies For Reading Law Like An Expert (Carolina Academic Press 2005).

ASP Director Alice Silkey recommends that if you have time to read only one book on this summer reading list, choose this one.

Robert H. Miller, Law School Confidential: A Complete Guide to the Law School Experience: By Students, for Students (3d ed., St. Martin's Griffin, 2011)

Gary A. Munneke. How to Succeed in Law School. (4th ed., Barron's Educational Series, 2008)

Carolyn J. Nygren, Starting Off Right in Law School (Carolina Academic Press 1997).

Austen Paris. Hard-Nosed Advice from a Cranky Law Professor: How to Succeed in Law School. (Carolina Academic Press 2010)

Herbert N. Ramy, Succeeding in Law School (Carolina Academic Press 2006).

David S. Romantz. Legal Analysis: The Fundamental Skill. (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press, 2009)

Helene A. Shapo & Marshall Shapo, Law School Without Fear: Strategies for Success (2d ed., Foundation Press 2002).

Ruta K. Stropus & Charlotte D. Taylor, Bridging the Gap Between College and Law School: Strategies for Success (Carolina Academic Press 2001).

Famous Trials/Famous Lawyers:

Garret Epps, To an Unknown God: Religious Freedom on Trial (St. Martin's Press 2001).

This is the story of an American Indian's defense of his religious right to engage in a peyote ceremony.

Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action (Vintage 1996).

This book chronicles a class action lawsuit brought in 1986 against Beatrice Foods and W.R. Grace. The plaintiffs charged that toxic waste on properties owned by the giant corporations had infiltrated town drinking water and caused an outbreak of leukemia.

Richard Kluger, Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle of Equality (Vintage 2004).

This book examines the Supreme Court's 1954 decision that outlawed segregation in public schools.

Anthony Lewis, Gideon's Trumpet (Vintage 1989).

This book is about the landmark case of James E. Gideon's fight for the right to legal counsel.

Louis Nizer, My Life in Court (Kessinger Publishing 2007).

This is an autobiography that depicts the experiences of a lawyer who handled famous court cases.

Barry Scheck, Peter Neufeld & Jim Dwyer, Actual Innocence: When Justice Goes Wrong and How to Make it Right (Penguin Group 2001).

This book examines the shortcomings in the legal process and how they have led to the wrongful convictions of innocent people.

The Law in General:

Wilson R. Huhn, The Five Types of Legal Argument (2d ed., Carolina Academic Press 2007).

This book is about law, legal method, and argumentation. It is applicable to common law, statutory law, and constitutional law.

Edward H. Levi, An Introduction to Legal Reasoning (University of Chicago Press 1962).

The book presents the challenges of government and jurisprudence as well as cites many cases to illustrate the process of judicial interpretation.

Classic Fiction:

Countless works of fiction center on the drama of a trial or the intricacies of a legal proceeding. Here are just a few of the classics.

Charles Dickens, Bleak House (Signet Classics 2003).

William Gaddis, A Frolic of His Own (Scribner 1995).

Franz Kafka, The Trial (Schocken 1999).

Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Perennial Modern Classics 2006).

William Shakespeare, The Merchant of Venice (Simon & Schuster 2004).