



## SUGGESTED READING FOR ADMITTED LAW STUDENTS

The currency of law is words. We sort and skim daily, but for law school you will also need old fashioned reading skills: the ability to immerse yourself in complex and lengthy texts for sustained comprehension and reflection on ideas. So our advice is to read – novels, history, whatever engages you – to build your concentration, comprehension, and critical thinking skills.

A great place to start building your reading muscle is newspapers and magazines. They'll help you have a better understanding of what's going on in the world, and provide good examples of solid, thoughtful (and sometimes not-so-solid-and-thoughtful) writing. Quality national newspapers like *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*, or magazines like *The Economist* and *The New Yorker* are excellent sources. If you're already an avid newspaper reader, try branching out into that section that you typically skip (the business or arts section, for instance.) Regularly tackling new and challenging material will help prepare you for the reading that is to come. (And think about reading them in print. Reading online versions of these publications encourages skimming and skipping around. You'll need to read more deeply as a law student; and typically you'll be reading from casebooks, not on a screen.)

Here are some additional reading recommendations as you prepare to join the Santa Clara community. *These aren't assignments, they're suggestions.* Pick and choose based on your own tastes and your available time this summer, including some material that stretches your brain. (Added bonus: this will give you a good reason to visit your local library; libraries are like second homes for law students.)

### HOW-TOS FOR LAW SCHOOL AND THINKING LIKE A LAWYER

*1000 Days to the Bar But the Practice of Law Begins Now* (Dennis J. Tonsing 2010). A guide to the strategies for doing well in law school that will also begin getting you ready for the Bar Exam. Remember that you're not a lawyer until you've actually passed the Bar.

*Deconstructing Legal Analysis: A 1L Primer* (Peter Wendel 2009). An explanation of the way that lawyers and law students analyze cases and legal problems.

*Expert Learning for Law Students* (Michael Hunter Schwartz 2008). This book talks about the process by which "expert" law students approach their studies, exams, and life in law school.

*Getting to Maybe* (Richard M. Fischl and Jeremy Paul 1999). This book emphasizes how much more than knowing a "right answer" law school requires.

*Law School Survival Kit* (Jeff Adachi 1999). The nuts and bolts of reading, preparing for class, outlining, and exam writing.

*The Legal Analyst: A Toolkit for Thinking about the Law* (Ward Farnsworth 2007). This book introduces tools and principles for thinking about the reasoning behind the law.

*Mindset: The New Psychology of Success* (Carol Dweck 2007). A book by a renowned psychologist on the mental approach for success in business, relationships, and (law) school.

*Reading Like a Lawyer: Time Saving Strategies for Reading Law Like an Expert* (Ruth Ann McKinney 2005). You will spend more time reading in law school than you ever imagined; the strategies in this book will jumpstart your mastery of this critical skill.

### **SUPREME COURT JUSTICES**

*Five Chiefs: A Supreme Court Memoir* (John Paul Stevens 2011). Insights into the five most recent chief justices (Justices Roberts, Rehnquist, Burger, Warren, and Vinson) told from the perspective of one of the Court's longest serving members.

*My Beloved World* (Sonia Sotomayor 2013). A pre-Court autobiography by one of its newest members, and the first Latina to serve on the nation's highest bench.

*The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court* (Jeffrey Toobin 2007). Someone wrote all the words of the opinions in your casebooks. This book puts many of cases you'll be assigned into context, and introduces you to the personalities and institution of the Court.

### **FAMOUS CASES**

*8* (Dustin Lance Black 2011). A play based directly on the trial transcripts from *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the challenge to California's Proposition 8.

→ Professor Pat Cain blogs about the impacts of same-sex marriage on tax law at:  
<http://law.scu.edu/category/same-sex-tax/>

*Bending the Law: The Story of the Dalkon Shield Bankruptcy* (Richard Sobol 1993). Corporate bankruptcy, mass torts, insurance, and sexual health, all in one massive case.

*Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence vs. Texas* (Dale Carpenter 2012). A narrative of one of the most significant gay rights cases to make its way to the Supreme Court.

*Gideon's Trumpet* (Anthony Lewis 1964). A prize-winning account of the case establishing the right of indigent criminal defendants to a lawyer.

*New York Burning: Liberty, Slavery, and Conspiracy in Eighteenth-Century Manhattan* (Jill Lepore 2005). The dramatic retelling of the events of 1741, with early trial practice and evidence law.

*Simple Justice: The History of Brown v. Board of Education and Black America's Struggle for Racial Equality* (Richard Kluger 2004). The story of the struggle of ordinary people and their lawyers for racial justice and equal educational opportunity provides insight into the Court and constitutional interpretation.

→ To see historical documents and images from *Brown*, visit:  
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/brown/brown-brown.html>

*The Snail Darter and the Dam: How Pork-Barrel Politics Endangered a Little Fish and Killed a River* (Brandt Goldstein 2006). The story of *Tennessee Valley Authority v. Hill*, one of America's most important environmental law cases.

*Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Fought the President - and Won* (Brandt Goldstein 2006). How a group of Yale Law students took on the federal government in a fight for the freedom of a group of Haitian refugees.

## LAW, POLITICS, AND SOCIETY

*The Agent: My 40-Year Career Making Deals and Changing the Game* (Leigh Steinberg 2014). An autobiography of one of America's leading sports agents (who also happens to be a member of the California Bar.)

*The American Legal System and Civic Engagement: Why We All Should Think Like Lawyers* (Kenneth Manaster 2013). One of Santa Clara Law's favorite professors explains how the way we approach problems and questions as lawyers can be used to address our greatest civic challenges.

*The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine* (Michael Lewis 2011). A thrilling narrative of some of the people and events that led to the Great Recession.

*Copyrights and Copywrongs: The Rise of Intellectual Property and How It Threatens Creativity* (Siva Vaidhyanathan 2003). A history of copyright law in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and its social, political, and cultural implications.

→ Santa Clara Law Professor Eric Goldman blogs about intellectual property and high tech law at: <http://blog.ericgoldman.org/>

*Our Nation Unhinged* (Peter Honigsberg 2009). An analysis of the changes to the American legal and political system after the attacks of September 11, 2001.

*The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* (Michelle Alexander 2012). The author argues that the supposed colorblindness that came with the election of President Obama overlooks a more insidious attack on communities of color through America's "tough on crime" mantra.

*No Constitutional Right to be Ladies: Women and the Obligations of Citizenship* (Linda Kerber 1999). Historical account of legal treatment of women in America, focusing on civic obligations and covering many of the key sex discrimination cases of the past 100 years.

*Privilege Revealed: How Invisible Preference Undermines America* (Stephanie Wildman 1996). Santa Clara Law Professor Stephanie Wildman brings to light the institutionalized systems of privilege that surround our everyday lives.

*Thinking About Crime: Sense and Sensibility in American Penal Culture* (Michael Tonry 2006). A discussion of the history of criminal justice policy, and ideas for reforming the system.

## LEGAL FICTION

*Bleak House* (Charles Dickens 1853). One of Dickens' finest, this novel helped spur the reform of England's Court of Chancery.

*The Crucible* (Arthur Miller 1953). This play about 17<sup>th</sup> century Salem witch trials preceded by several years the playwright's interrogation by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

*The Descendants* (Kauai Hart Hemmings 2007). Any law student reading this book (or watching the 2011 movie starring George Clooney) recognized the famed Rule Against Perpetuities as its true star.

*To Kill A Mockingbird* (Harper Lee 1960). Voted by librarians as the best novel of the century, this Pulitzer Prize winner grows out of the author's childhood in 1930s Alabama, before she studied the law.

*The Trial* (Franz Kafka 1925). Compared to this, law school is a walk in the park.

## **LEGAL CAREERS**

*Best Friends at the Bar: What Women Need to Know about a Career in the Law* (Susan Blakely 2009). The author provides insights into the experiences of women in the law, with advice and stories from judges, attorneys, partners, and law students.

*Guerilla Tactics for Getting the Legal Job of Your Dreams* (Kimm Alayne Walton 2008). It's never too early to begin thinking about summer and post-graduate employment. This book provides simple strategies to help you find the right career opportunities for you.

*The Official Guide to Legal Specialties* (NALP 2000). A guide developed by the leading national organization on legal careers introducing you to the broad range of lawyering work.

→ Our Office of Career Management has put together a number of guides on the various career pathways for lawyers. Check them out at:  
<http://law.scu.edu/careers/career-pathways/>

*Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future* (Richard Susskind 2013). A guide to the legal profession in the years to come, and how aspiring lawyers should prepare for it.

## **LEGAL HUMOR**

*Disorderly Conduct: Excerpts from Actual Cases* (Rodney Jones, Charles Sevilla, and Gerald Uelmen 1999). Santa Clara Law Professor Gerald Uelmen and friends point out some absurd and funny true happens from court transcripts.