

Optional Reading:

Getting Ready for Your First Year:

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

What Every Law Student Really Needs to Know: An Introduction to the Study of Law (2nd ed.) by Tracey E. George and Suzanna Sherry

An Introduction to the Legal System of the United States (4th ed.), by E. Allan Farnsworth
The United States Legal System, An Introduction (4th ed.), by Margaret Z. Johns and Rex. R. Perschbacher

Whose Monet? An Introduction to the American Legal System, 2E by John Humbach

An Introduction to Legal Reasoning, by Edward H. Levi

Logic for Lawyers: A Guide to Clear Legal Thinking, by Ruggero J. Aldisert

Non-Fiction:

Becoming Justice Blackman, by Linda Greenhouse

The Buffalo Creek Disaster: How the Survivors of One of the Worst Disasters in Coal-Mining History Brought Suit Against the Coal Company – and Won, by Gerald M. Stern

A Civil Action, by Jonathan Harr

Gideon's Trumpet, by Anthony Lewis

In Cold Blood, by Truman Capote

Scottsboro: A Tragedy of the American South, by Dan T. Carter

Simple Justice, by Richard Kluger

Summer for the Gods: The Scopes Trial and America's Continuing Debate Over Science and Religion, by Edward J. Larson

Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer's Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty, by Scott Turow

By SMU Faculty:

Flagrant Conduct: The Story of Lawrence v. Texas, by Dale Carpenter

Lawtalk: The Unknown Stories Behind Familiar Legal Expressions, by Elizabeth Thornburg (and others)

Mrs. Shipley's Ghost: The Right to Travel and Terrorist Watchlists, by Jeffrey Kahn

American Law: An Introduction (3rd ed.), by Lawrence M. Friedman and Grant M. Hayden

Legal Fiction:

Anatomy of a Murder, by Robert Traver

The Crucible, by Arthur Miller

Native Son, by Richard Wright

To Kill a Mockingbird, by Harper Lee

Legal Stories Online:

[SCOTUS blog](#) (legal news and current Supreme Court cases)

[How Appealing](#) (links to legal news with an emphasis on appellate courts)

[Serial, Season 1](#) (a gripping podcast series about the trial of Adnan Sayed)

Or check out this list from the American Bar Journal of their [Blawg 100 Hall of Fame](#) – pick an area of the law you'd like to follow and check it out.