

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

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

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

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.