The Role of Law in Society

Law plays a unique role in American society, particularly but not exclusively in the fields of civil rights and civil liberties. There are a large number of books documenting this phenomenon. Among these publications the following are recommend.

Alderman, Ellen & Kennedy, Caroline. The Right to Privacy. (1996)
Ancheta, Angelo N. Race, Rights, and the Asian Experience. (1998)
Bell, Derrick. And We Are Not Saved: The Elusive Quest for Racial Justice. (1987)
Faulhaber, Gregory M. Politics, Law and the Church: An Examination of the Relationship Between Catholicism and American Law. (1996)
Keen, Lisa, & Goldberg, Suzanne B. Strangers to the Law: Gay People on Trial. (1998)

The Work of Lawyers and Judges

The activities and accomplishments of lawyers and judges make valuable and inspiring reading. The following are suggested books in this regard.

Auerbach, Jerold S. Unequal Justice: Lawyers and Social Change in Modern America. (1976)
Lawyers, Judges and the Legal System in Literature

Novels and plays also portray the work of lawyers and the legal system. Among the very large number of serious works are the following.

Auchincloss, Louis. The Great World and Timothy Colt. (1956)
Bolt, Robert. A Man for All Seasons. (1962)
Cozzens, James G. The Just and the Unjust. (1942)
Dickens, Charles. Bleak House. (1852)
Kafka, Franz. The Trial. (1914-5/1925)

Lawrence, Jerome & Robert E. Lee. "Inherit the Wind."
Melville, Herman. Billy Budd. (1891)
Shakespeare, William. "The Merchant of Venice."
For those of you interested in biographies, the following books on the lives of eminent lawyers and jurists are recommended.

(Bradwell, Myra.) *America's First Woman Lawyer*, by Jane M. Friedman. (1993)

(Brandeis, Louis.) *Brandeis; a Free Man's Life*, by Alpheus T. Mason. (1946)


(Cardozo, Benjamin Nathan.) *Cardozo*, by Andrew L. Kaufman. (1998)

(Coke, Sir Edward.) *The Lion and the Throne; the Life and Times of Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634)*, by Catherine D. Bowen. (1957)

(Darrow, Clarence S.) *Clarence Darrow for the Defense*.


(Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr.) *Yankee from Olympus; Justice Holmes and His Family*, by Catherine D. Bowen. (1944)


The study of the history of the law and the development of the legal profession can be quite interesting and rewarding. The following are highly recommended.


Friedman, Lawrence M. *Law in America: A Short History*. (2002)


Kempin, Frederick G. *Historical Introduction to Anglo-American Law, in a Nutshell.* (3rd ed., 1990)


Maitland, Frederic W. *A Sketch of English Legal History.* (1915)

Matsuda, Mari J. *Called From Within: Early Women Lawyers of Hawai‘i.* (1992)


Rehnquist, William H. *All the Laws But One: Civil Liberties in Wartime.* (1998)


Stevens, Robert B. *Law School: Legal Education in America from the 1850s to the 1980s.* (1983)

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**Foreign and International Perspectives**

*Law exists in almost every society. You can gain a new perspective on our own legal system by examining the role of law and lawyers in other legal systems and in other societies. In an increasingly multinational world, the international community itself has been developing rules and standards, as well. Some of the most interesting and informative works are the following.*


Janis, Mark W. *An Introduction to International Law.* (1988)

Liebesny, Herbert J. *The Law of the Near and Middle East.* (1975)


Classics of Legal Scholarship and Philosophy

There are a number of "classics" in legal scholarship, among which are the following. None of these are "easy" reads, however.

Cahn, Edmond. The Moral Decision: Right and Wrong in the Light of American Law. (1955)
Cardozo, Benjamin N. The Nature of the Judicial Process. (1921)
Frank, Jerome. Law and the Modern Mind. (1949)
Fuller, Lon L. Anatomy of the Law. (1969)
Hart, H.L.A. The Concept of Law. (1961)
Holmes, Oliver Wendell, Jr. The Common Law. (1881)
Levi, Edward H. An Introduction to Legal Reasoning. (1949)
Llewellyn, Karl N. The Bramble Bush: On Our Law and Its Study. (1951)
Pound, Roscoe. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Law. (1954)
Pound, Roscoe. The Spirit of the Common Law. (1921)

Introduction to Law School and the Profession

An introduction to law school itself can be gained from the following books. (If you read Scott Turow's account of law school life at Harvard, One L, take comfort in knowing that Loyola has not succumbed to this high-pressure syndrome.)

Bell, Derrick. Confronting Authority: Reflections of an Ardent Protester. (1994)
Hegland, Kenney. Introduction to the Study and Practice of Law in a Nutshell. (2d ed., 1995)
Turow, Scott. One L; An Inside Account of Life in the First Year at Harvard Law School. (1977)
Movies

There are a large number of movies about lawyers and the legal system, most available on videocassettes or DVD's. The movies range from the "classic" to the contemporary, from the truly excellent to the very bad. Listed below are some of the classics, both old and new.

A Civil Action (1998; John Travolta and Robert Duvall)
Adam's Rib (1949; Katherine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy)
A Few Good Men (1992; Tom Cruise and Demi Moore)
A Man For All Seasons (1966; Paul Scofield)
Anatomy of a Murder (1959; Jimmy Stewart)
The Caine Mutiny (1954; Humphrey Bogart)
Compulsion (1959; Orson Welles)
I Want to Live! (1958; Susan Hayward)
Inherit the Wind (1960; Frederic March and Spencer Tracy)
Judgment at Nuremberg (1961; Spencer Tracy)
Kramer vs. Kramer (1979; Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep)
Philadelphia (1994; Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington)
To Kill a Mockingbird (1962; Gregory Peck)
Twelve Angry Men (1957; Henry Fonda)
Witness for the Prosecution (1957; Marlene Dietrich and Charles Laughton)
The Young Philadelphians (1959; Paul Newman)

The following are some of the non-classics, most of them relatively recent. These are included more for entertainment (some only for entertainment) than for insight into the practice of law.

The Accused (1998; Jodie Foster)
... And Justice For All (1979; Al Pacino)
Body Heat (1981; William Hurt)
The Chamber (1996; Chris O'Donnell and Gene Hackman)
Class Action (1990; Gene Hackman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio)
The Devil's Advocate (1997; Al Pacino)
The Firm (1993; Tom Cruise)
Jagged Edge (1985; Glenn Close and Jeff Bridges)
Legal Eagles (1986; Debra Winger)
Legally Blonde (2001; Reese Witherspoon)
Liar Liar (1997; Jim Carrey)
Murder in the First (1994; Christian Slater and Kevin Bacon)
My Cousin Vinny (1992; Joe Pescsi and Marisa Tomei)
The Paper Chase (1973; Timothy Bottoms, Lindsay Wagner, John Houseman)
Presumed Innocent (1990; Harrison Ford)
Primal Fear (1996; Richard Gere)
The Rainmaker (1998; Matt Damon and Danny DeVito)
Reversal of Fortune (1990; Ron Silver)
Sleepers (1996; Brad Pitt and Robert DeNiro)
Suspect (1987; Cher)
The Thin Blue Line (1988; Dennis Johnson)
The Verdict (1982; Paul Newman)