

OPTIONAL READINGS FOR INCOMING LAW STUDENTS

FALL 2026

TITLE AUTHOR(S)	DESCRIPTION EXCERPT (FROM PUBLISHER)	WE RECOMMEND THIS BOOK TO . . .	IF YOU LIKED THIS BOOK, YOU MAY ENJOY . . .
<p><u>Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams</u> Richard Michael Fischl Jeremy R. Paul</p>	<p><i>Getting to Maybe</i> appears on summer reading lists at countless law schools, and professors often recommend it in first-year courses. What sets it apart from its competitors is its frank recognition that law exams test legal reasoning and that legal reasoning cannot be reduced to any simple “check the boxes” template. Yet law students give it high marks because it avoids abstruse lectures and instead offers a clear, readable, and often humorous guide to how lawyers and judges deploy legal reasoning in real-world disputes and how law professors test such disputes—and the reasoning required to resolve them—on law exams.</p>	<p>Someone who loves the classics.</p>	<p><i>The Paper Chase</i></p>
<p><u>Open Book: The Inside Track to Law School Success</u> Barry Friedman John C. P. Goldberg</p>	<p><i>Open Book</i> explains in a clear and easygoing, conversational manner what law professors expect from their students both in classes and exams. The authors, award-winning teachers with a wealth of classroom experience, give students an inside look at law school by explaining how, despite appearances to the contrary, classes connect to exams and exams connect to the practice of law. <i>Open Book</i> introduces them to the basic structure of our legal system and to the distinctive features of legal reasoning. To prepare students for exams, the book explains in clear and careful detail what exams are designed to test.</p>	<p>Someone who wants the big picture in a small package.</p>	<p><i>My Cousin Vinny</i></p>
<p><u>1L of a Ride: A Well-Traveled Professor's Roadmap to Success in the First Year of Law School</u> Andrew J. McClurg</p>	<p><i>1L of a Ride</i> provides a candid, comprehensive roadmap to both academic and emotional success in law school's crucial first year. Told in an accessible first-person voice, covered topics include: pre-planning, top student fears, the first-year curriculum, the Socratic and case methods of teaching, effective class participation, the top habits of successful students, essential study techniques, legal research and writing, exam strategies, maintaining well-being, online learning, career planning, and much more.</p>	<p>Someone who wants <u>all</u> the tea.</p>	<p><i>How to Get Away with Murder</i> or <i>Suits</i></p>
<p><u>The Law Student's Guide to Doing Well and Being Well</u> Shailini Jandial George</p>	<p>The ABA and most state bar associations have identified a wellness crisis in the legal profession, and called for educating students on how to better cope with the challenges of law school and practice. At the same time, students must learn how to maximize their brain health so that they perform well in law school and on behalf of their clients in practice. The same way musicians would tune their instruments, or chefs would sharpen their knives, law students must sharpen their minds. This book aims to help students “do well” in their ability to learn, and “be well” in the process, by exploring the deep connection between brain health and wellness. Written in a witty, informative, and easy-to-read style, the book is full of suggestions to help students establish healthy and productive habits.</p>	<p>Someone who knows you can't pour from an empty cup (and may or may not have a 10-step skincare routine).</p>	<p><i>Legally Blonde</i> or <i>Jury Duty</i></p>
<p><u>Law School Exams: A Guide to Better Grades</u> Alex Schimel</p>	<p><i>Law School Exams: A Guide to Better Grades</i> is the complete handbook for students seeking to improve their performance in law school. This book offers a concise and practical strategy that can be applied to almost any law school exam, regardless of topic or level. The main focus of the book is on law school exam success, but it also includes comprehensive guidance on reading, note-taking, use of supplements, and common mistakes made by law students.</p>	<p>Someone who wants to get down to brass tacks.</p>	<p><i>Law and Order</i></p>