



# Duke Law LAW SCHOOL

## SUCCESS

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Law Library

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## I. Introduction

Welcome to Duke Law School! The Goodson Law Library has a wide collection of materials that can help you get the most out of your law school experience. These resources cover a broad range of topics, from how to plan your course load to managing stress and studying for exams. Due to high demand, some of these materials are kept in the **Reserve** collection behind the library’s service desk, and they may be borrowed for four hours at a time. If you need help locating additional materials or would like further recommendations, be sure to check with a librarian.

## II. The Law School Experience

These materials provide a general overview of what to expect in law school. Chapters include how the Socratic method works, case briefing, legal research and writing, study strategies, and exam preparation. (Later sections of this guide include materials devoted exclusively to some of these topics.) Locate additional titles like these in the catalog (<https://law.duke.edu/lib/>) with a **subject heading** search for “Law students–United States–Handbooks, manuals, etc.”

- Hegland, Kenney F. *Introduction to the Study and Practice of Law in a Nutshell*, 7th ed. (online, <https://find.library.duke.edu/catalog/DUKE008890482>, 2017).
- Herman, G. Nicholas. *Navigating the First Year of Law School: A Practical Guide to Studying Law* (KF283 .H47 2016).
- Iijima, Ann L. *The Law Student's Pocket Mentor: From Surviving to Thriving* (Reserves KF283 .I35 2007).
- Llewellyn, Karl N. *The Bramble Bush: The Classic Lectures on the Law and Law School* (Reserves KF273 .L54 2008). A legal classic which grew out of Llewellyn's lectures to first-year law students at Columbia in 1929 and 1930. It remains a valid introduction to the study of law and a thoughtful introduction to the life of a law student.

- McKinney, Ruth Ann. *Reading Like a Lawyer: Time-Saving Strategies for Reading Law Like an Expert*, 2d ed. (Reserves KF283 .M398 2012).
- Noyes, Shana Connell and Noyes, Henry S. *Acing Your First Year of Law School: The Ten Steps to Success You Won't Learn in Class*, 2d ed. (Reserves KF283 .N69 2008).
- Stropus, Ruta K. and Taylor, Charlotte D. *Bridging the Gap between College and Law School: Strategies for Success*, 3d ed. (Reserves KF283 .S77 2014).

### III. Study Guides & Aids

These materials help explain the legal concepts covered in the doctrinal courses most students take in their first or second year of law school. They can be accessed through the catalog (<http://search.library.duke.edu>) using the strategies explained below for each series.

**CALI** (<http://www.cali.org>): The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) hosts more than 1000 online lessons on virtually every legal topic. Register an account with the **Duke Law School authorization code** (ask at the Reference Services desk or visit <https://law.duke.edu/actech/download/downloadlist/#CALI>).

**Examples and Explanations Series:** Titles in this popular series are written by law professors who give a narrative overview of the key concepts and rules for a particular subject, followed by “examples” (hypothetical questions) and “explanations” of the answers. Search the catalog for the **title** “*examples and explanations*” to retrieve a list of all available titles. The current edition for each subject is kept on Reserve; previous editions are kept in the Stacks.

**Hornbooks:** The library has purchased the entire Hornbook series set, and they can be accessed as e-books through the catalog <https://find.library.duke.edu/advanced>. These one-volume books are written especially for law students and summarize specific areas of law in a narrative form. Find the volume you need by entering the topic in the **subject** field (for example, *torts*) and entering “hornbook” in the **series** field.

**Mastering... Series:** These slim volumes provide a basic overview of a specific area of law, with minimal footnotes. They are available on most law school course subjects, and their locations can be found in the Stacks with a **title** search of the catalog for “mastering [subject]”; e.g. *mastering contract law*.

**Nutshell Series:** These pocket-sized books contain a comprehensive outline of a specific subject, usually written by a noted authority. The library has purchased the entire Nutshell series, and they are accessible through the catalog as e-books (and some in print) <https://find.library.duke.edu/advanced> by entering the topic in the **subject** field and entering “nutshell” in the **series** field. Nutshells offer a big-picture look at the law but

do not give the in-depth analysis hornbooks offer. The most current print Nutshells are on Reserve; previous print editions are kept in the Stacks.

**Q&A series:** Books in this series provide a review of legal subjects using a multiple-choice and short-answer question format. The library owns selected titles, particularly in subject areas where multiple-choice exams are commonplace. To locate available titles, conduct a **title** search for “questions and answers and [subject]”; e.g., *questions and answers and professional responsibility*. (A similar multiple-choice approach is taken in the **Glannon Guides**, which are also available for selected subjects.)

**Understanding... Series:** Published by LexisNexis on a variety of legal topics, this series can be found in the Stacks with a **title** search of the catalog for “understanding [subject]”; e.g. *understanding criminal law*. The *Understanding* series contain an overview of an area of law, with footnotes to primary sources for further reading.

#### IV. *The Bluebook* & Legal Writing

In addition to guides listed below, the library keeps the most current Legal Analysis, Research and Writing textbooks, including the custom textbook, on Reserve. More titles on legal writing (including advanced topics such as law review competitions and moot court drafting) can be found in the online catalog (<http://search.library.duke.edu/>) with a **subject heading** search for “Legal composition – United States” and “Legal briefs – United States.”

- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 20th ed. (Reserves KF245 .U55 2015). The latest edition of the standard legal citation manual.
- Barris, Linda J. *Understanding and Mastering the Bluebook: A Guide for Students and Practitioners*, 3d ed. (Reserves KF245 .B37 2015). Demystifies the basic *Bluebook* forms, with cites to specific rules for further information.
- Bouchoux, Deborah E. *Cite-Checker: Your Guide to Using the Bluebook*, 4th ed. (Reserves KF245 .B68 2016). A brief, practical approach to learning the “Bluepages” style of the *Bluebook*.
- Dworsky, Alan L. *User’s Guide to the Bluebook*, 3d ed. (Reserves KF245 .D85 2015). A distillation of the most common *The Bluebook* tasks and questions, written for those using the “Bluepages” style.

#### V. Exam Preparation

The library does not maintain a collection of past Duke Law School course exams. Past exams for a particular Duke Law School course may be posted to the course Sakai site at the discretion of the instructor. The library does have materials that provide general assistance with exam preparation, and many contain sample exam questions.

- Burkhart, Ann M. *Law School Success in a Nutshell: A Guide to Studying Law and Taking Law School Exams* (Reserves KF283 .B87 2017).
- Calleros, Charles R. *Law School Exams: Preparing and Writing to Win* (Reserves KF283 .C35 2007).
- Darrow-Kleinhaus, Suzanne. *Mastering the Law School Exam: A Practical Blueprint for Preparing and Taking Law School Exam* (Reserves KF283 .D37 2007).
- Dernbach, John C., *Writing Essay Exams to Succeed (Not Just to Survive)* (Reserves KF283 .D47 2010).
- Fischl, Richard M. *Getting to Maybe: How to Excel on Law School Exams* (Reserves KF283 .F57 1999).
- Friedman, Barry. *Open Book: Succeeding on Exams from the First Day of Law School* (KF283 .F75 2011).
- Schimel, Alex. *Law School Exams: A Guide to Better Grades* (Reserves KF283 .S335 2018).

Locate additional exam preparation guides in the catalog (<http://search.library.duke.edu/>) with a **subject heading** search for “Law examinations–United States.” Although the *content* of sample answers in some older titles might be outdated, the analytical process and answer structure of law school examinations have remained fairly consistent over time.