



# Duke Law LAW SCHOOL

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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. As the Law Library is not circulating print reserve books, this guide focuses on resources that are available electronically.

## 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, legal writing, study strategies, and exam preparation. Later sections of this guide include materials devoted exclusively to some of these topics.

- 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).
- Llewellyn, Karl N. *The Bramble Bush: The Classic Lectures on the Law and Law School* (<https://find.library.duke.edu/catalog/DUKE009169852>). 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.
- McClain, Russell A. *The Guide to Belonging in Law School* (2020). <https://find.library.duke.edu/catalog/DUKE009644412>
- McClurg, Andrew J. *1L of a Ride: a well traveled law professor's roadmap to success in the first year of law school* (2017). <https://find.library.duke.edu/catalog/DUKE008891369>
- Rapoport, Nancy & Van Niel, Jeffrey, *Law School Survival Manual: From LSAT to Bar Exam* (2011), available via Wolters Kluwer Study Aids.

### 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** (email a Reference Librarian at [ref@law.duke.edu](mailto:ref@law.duke.edu) to obtain the code).

**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, which are available as e-books through the Wolters Kluwer study aid platform.

**Hornbooks:** The library has purchased the entire Hornbook series set, which 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.

**Nutshell Series:** These pocket-sized books contain a comprehensive outline of a specific subject, usually written by a noted authority. The complete Nutshell series is accessible through the catalog in e-book format <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.

### IV. The Bluebook

**The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation**, 21st ed. is the latest edition of the standard legal citation manual. The law library is unable to circulate copies or provide scans of *The Bluebook*. The 21<sup>st</sup> edition is available for purchase at <https://www.legalbluebook.com/>. The Law Library no longer has complimentary access codes from the publisher.

## 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*, 3d. ed., available at <https://find.library.duke.edu/catalog/DUKE008891371>.
- Calleros, Charles R. *Law School Exams: Preparing and Writing to Win*, available via Wolters Kluwer Study Aids online.
- Darrow-Kleinhaus, Suzanne. *Mastering the Law School Exam: A Practical Blueprint for Preparing and Taking Law School Exam*, available at <https://find.library.duke.edu/catalog/DUKE008890739>.
- Dernbach, John C., *Writing Essay Exams to Succeed (Not Just to Survive)*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., available via Wolters Kluwer Study Aids online.

You can 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.

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