A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY*

Sally Ginsberg Waters**

The works listed below focus almost exclusively on legal education from the law student's perspective. Not included here are items designed to help prospective students decide whether, or where, to study law; materials that are primarily used in classroom study (for example, books on legal research); or materials written mainly for law professors or practitioners.

Also omitted from this bibliography are materials found solely on the Internet, some of which can be very helpful to law students. Students interested in such items are advised to visit comprehensive Web sites such as Findlaw (www.findlaw.com), which provides links to hundreds of Web sites aimed specifically at law students with helpful information on everything from career planning to exam skills.

Law students should also consider subscribing to Student Lawyer (published by the American Bar Association's Law Student Division) or The National Jurist (published by National Jurist, Inc.). Both sources do an admirable job of addressing the concerns of law students, such as exam skills and study habits, different areas of law practice, and bar exam preparation; they can be important tools for any students wanting to maximize their law school experience.

Historical View of Legal System

William Epstein, The Classical Tradition of Dialectics and
American Legal Education, 31 J. Legal Educ. 399 (1982). A history of the Socratic method and its development — beginning, of course, with Socrates — that includes a sample of a Socratic dialogue in the classroom and gives the reasons why professors use this method of instruction.


Karl N. Llewellyn, The Bramble Bush: On Our Law and Its Study (1951). A classic exposition on what the law and law school are all about, adapted from a series of lectures to entering students at Columbia Law School over seventy years ago.

Legal Analysis/Reasoning

Ronald D. Dworkin, Law's Empire (1986). A complex yet accessible discourse on jurisprudence, with the author using examples from several cases to show why the courts held as they did.

Edward H. Levi, An Introduction to Legal Reasoning (1949). An excellent guide that not only shows how legal reasoning is applied to cases, but also to federal statutes and the Constitution.

David M. O'Brien, Storm Center: The Supreme Court in American Politics (4th ed. 1996). The inner workings of the Supreme Court — how cases are heard, opinions written, and the court administered — presented in a well-written account that also details the personalities and daily routines of the justices.

Joseph O'Meara, An Introduction to Law and How to Study It (1973). A series of lectures to first-year students at the University of Notre Dame Law School that focuses on a few well-known cases to show how they should be read and understood.

Kenneth J. Vandevelde, Thinking Like a Lawyer: An Introduction to Legal Reasoning (1996). A guide to the theories and practice of legal reasoning that explains basic concepts, and then shows how such reasoning can be applied to issues from most of the first-year curriculum.

William Zelmermyer, Legal Reasoning: The Evolutionary
PROCESS OF LAW (1960). An analysis of older cases, used to show how both logic and an understanding of the facts can help students grasp the points, rules, and meanings of judicial opinions.

Case Law

JONATHAN HARR, A CIVIL ACTION (1995). An excellent — and true — account of a lawsuit brought against the W.R. Grace Co. for allegedly poisoning a Massachusetts river and causing a cluster of leukemia cases; the book covers not just the trial itself, but the preparation by both sides, and the personalities of the attorneys and judge. Insightful.

RICHARD KLUGER, SIMPLE JUSTICE (1977). The case — Brown v. Board of Education — was anything but simple; it outlawed school segregation. Kluger covers the case as it progresses up to the Supreme Court, showing along the way its background, the legal procedures behind it, and how the Supreme Court reached its landmark decision.

Law School Life

JOHN J. OSBORN, JR., THE PAPER CHASE (1971). Probably the best known fictional account of law school life, this story of student Hart and contracts professor Kingsfield was later made into both a movie (highly recommended) and a television series.

SCOTT TUROW, ONE L (rev. ed. 1988). The author's account of his first-year experiences at Harvard Law School, detailing his thoughts and doubts about classes, professors, fellow law students, and legal education in general.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF LAW (Arthur T. Vanderbilt ed., 1979). A collection of essays covering prelaw education, the study of law, and the lawyer as advocate, made more interesting by excerpts from other works (such as The Paper Chase and One L) describing the law school experience.

Law School Strategies & Success

RICHARD MICHAEL FISCHL & JEREMY PAUL, GETTING TO MAYBE: HOW TO EXCEL ON LAW SCHOOL EXAMS (1999). Possibly the most thorough discourse ever written on how to prepare for exams and write them, this small book is crammed with information that will
help students through almost every type of exam. A very highly recommended resource.


LOOKING AT LAW SCHOOL (Stephen Gillers ed., 4th ed. 1997). A compilation of essays by law professors that not only features outlines and discussions of most first-year courses, but also deals with the entire law school experience and life after graduation.

GARY A. MUNNEKE, HOW TO SUCCEED IN LAW SCHOOL (2d ed. 1994). A useful guide for the new law student, covering everything from case briefs and outlining, to dealing with stress and exams.

CAROLYN J. NYGREN, STARTING OFF RIGHT IN LAW SCHOOL (1997). While designed primarily for students considering law school, this book has much to offer the students already there. By focusing on one hypothetical case and following it through the court system, the author clearly shows how the legal process works, how courts reason, and how the student can apply this knowledge to achieve success in law school.


Career Opportunities & Satisfaction

DEBORAH ARRON, WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A LAW DEGREE?: A LAWYER’S GUIDE TO CAREER ALTERNATIVES INSIDE, OUTSIDE AND AROUND THE LAW (4th ed. 1999). Not just a compendium of information about career possibilities, this book also contains several self-assessment methods to help the student or law graduate decide the best job for him or her. An informative and helpful career planning guide.

BREAKING TRADITIONS: WORK ALTERNATIVES FOR LAWYERS (Donna M. Killoughey ed., 1993). A collection of essays by attorneys about the law firm environment and alternatives to it, including nontraditional legal jobs, part-time work, and work at home.

STEVEN KEEVA, TRANSFORMING PRACTICES: FINDING JOY AND
Satisfaction in the Legal Life (1999). This book, by a senior editor of the ABA Journal, focuses not on being a good lawyer, but being a good person; by looking within, lawyers can find more meaning in their practice, enjoy it more, and honor the profession.


Mike Papantonio, In Search of Atticus Finch: A Motivational Book for Lawyers (1996). Using the character from To Kill a Mockingbird — and several excerpts from the book — the author tells how attorneys can strive for professional and private lives with meaning and keep alive their love of the law.