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I. Introduction

The Goodson Law Library owns a number of publications aimed at current law students who seek an edge in the competitive game of managing course loads, studying effectively, and acing exams. This guide provides a selection of the available titles, along with strategies for locating others. Due to high demand, some of these titles are kept on Reserve behind the library's service desk, and may be borrowed for four hours at a time.

II. The Law School Experience

Titles in this section provide a general overview of law study, and chapters may cover such topics as the Socratic method, case briefing, legal research and writing, study strategies, and exam preparation. (Later sections of this guide include titles which are devoted exclusively to some of these topics.) Locate additional titles like these in the libraries' catalog (<http://find.library.duke.edu>) with a **subject keyword** search for "Law students–United States–Handbooks, manuals, etc."

- Hegland, Kenney F. *Introduction to the Study and Practice of Law in a Nutshell*, 5th ed. (Reserves KF273 .H4 2008).
- 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* (Reserves KF283 .M398 2005).
- 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*, 2d ed. (Reserves KF283 .S77 2009).

III. Study Guides & Aids

Materials in this section can help clarify points raised during class or in casebooks. Most can be found in the library's General Collection, arranged in call number order with other titles on a particular subject. To locate available titles and call numbers, search the libraries' **online catalog** (<http://find.library.duke.edu/>) using the strategies outlined for each series.

CALI (<http://www.cali.org>): The Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) hosts more than 850 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 <http://www.law.duke.edu/computing/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 **title keywords** "*examples and explanations*" to retrieve a list of all available titles.

Hornbooks: These one-volume books are written especially for law students and summarize specific areas of law in a narrative form. Most hornbooks are available in two editions: Practitioner's and Student's. The practitioner's edition usually contains additional chapters which discuss practical issues, such as preparing for trial. The library usually has the current edition of both versions in the Reserves collection; previous editions are available in the General Collection.

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 catalog with a **title keyword** search for "mastering [subject]"; e.g. *mastering contracts*.

Nutshell Series: These pocket-sized books contain a comprehensive outline of a specific subject, usually written by a noted authority. Nutshells provide a big-picture look at the law and avoid in-depth analysis. They contain fewer footnotes and references than hornbooks, but generally give greater coverage of a subject than commercial study outlines. The most current Nutshells are in the Reserves collection, organized by author's last name.

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 keyword** 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 in the General Collection for selected subjects.)

Understanding... Series: Published by LexisNexis on a variety of legal topics, this series can be found with a **title keyword** 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. *Bluebook* & Legal Writing

In addition to guides listed below, the library keeps most current Legal Analysis, Research and Writing textbooks on Reserve, arranged by author's last name. 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://find.library.duke.edu>) with a **subject keyword** search for "Legal composition—United States" and "Legal briefs—United States."

- *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation*, 19th ed. (Reserves KF245 .U55 2010). The latest edition of the standard legal citation manual.
- Barris, Linda J. *Understanding and Mastering the Bluebook: A Guide for Students and Practitioners*, 2d ed. (Reserves KF245 .B37 2010). Demystifies the basic *Bluebook* forms, with cites to specific rules for further information.
- Bouchoux, Deborah E. *Cite-Checker: Your Guide to Learning the Bluebook*, 3rd ed. (Reserves KF245 .B68 2011). A brief, practical approach to learning the "Bluepages" style of the *Bluebook*.
- Dworsky, Alan L. *User's Guide to the Bluebook*, 2d ed. (Reserves KF245 .D85 2010). A distillation of the most common *Bluebook* tasks and questions, written for those using the "Bluepages" style.
- Teply, Larry L. *Legal Writing Citation in a Nutshell* (Reserves KF245 .T47 2008). A more general overview of legal citation, including examples from the *Bluebook* competitor *ALWD Citation Manual* and public-domain citation formats. (Note: this text refers to the rules from the prior edition of the *Bluebook*.)

V. Exam Preparation

Past exams for a particular Duke Law School course may be posted to the class's Blackboard site at the discretion of the instructor. In addition, the library owns several titles which provide general assistance with exam preparation. 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 2008).
- 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 2007).

Locate additional exam preparation guides in the catalog (<http://find.library.duke.edu>) with a **subject 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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