



## Top 15 Books Every Lawyer Should Read

By Dan Ciraco, Angelika Heim and Jordan Nahmias\*

We asked some of our favourite law librarians and the chair of the OBA Entertainment, Media & Communications Section about books for lawyers. Whether it's for your next poolside vacation or your commute to work, here are the Top 15 books that every lawyer should read, in no particular order:

Recommended by David Whelan, Manager, Legal Information, The Law Society of Upper Canada:

1. *McElhaney's Trial Notebook* by James McElhaney - Great book whether or not you're a litigator, with stories to improve your advocacy and lawyering skills.
2. *Blur: How to Know What's True in the Age of Information Overload* by Bill Kovach and Tom Rosenstiel - Practical advice on developing a questioning view of information, a skepticism that can help in legal analysis.
3. *The Courage of Their Convictions* by Peter Irons - Powerful telling of 16 U.S. Supreme Court cases and how they got to the country's top court. Emphasizes the great work that lawyers can do in championing their clients' rights.

Recommended by Mary Saulig, Director of Library and Records at Goodmans LLP:

4. *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee - The legal profession portrayed by a noble figure.
5. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen – The written word in its most perfect state, and character studies that are spot on.
6. *Zen and the Art of Happiness* by Chris Prentiss – To give balance to your life.

Recommended by Gaye Lefebvre, Director of Library Services at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP:

7. *Legal Research and Writing* by Ted Tjaden – Because we're lawyers and research and writing is our game (or at least a key asset in our bag of tricks).

8. ***Getting to Yes: Negotiating Agreement Without Giving In*** by Roger Fisher and William L. Ury – A classic that adds polish to your effectiveness as a professional negotiator. As a bonus, you can also use your new and/or improved skills on your loved ones during family holidays - accolades will surely follow.

Recommended by Laurel Murdoch, Manager, Library Services at Heenan Blaikie LLP:

9. ***The Laws of Government: The Legal Foundations of Canadian Democracy***, 2d ed. by Craig Forcese and Aaron Freeman - Valuable in the law firm context for its chapters on how Parliament operates, a subject often overlooked by law schools that focus on casebooks.
10. ***Bleak House*** (any edition) by Charles Dickens - Not just a diatribe against the Chancery system of its time, but a reminder that there are clients whose lives or businesses or finances are directly affected not just by the outcome of litigation but by the process itself.

Recommended by John Papadopoulos, Chief Law Librarian, Bora Laskin Law Library, University of Toronto:

11. ***The Fiercest Debate*** by Kyer & Bickenbach – An excellent history of the debate that transformed legal education in Ontario in the 1950's.
12. ***The End of Lawyers*** by Richard E. Susskind – A very interesting and challenging analysis on how the profession is changing – ranges from the impact of new technologies to alternative dispute resolution to access to justice.
13. ***Essential Sources of Canadian Law*** by John Eaton & Denis Le May – A simple and very useful guide to the key books for most areas of Canadian Law.

Recommended by both Gaye Lefebvre, Director of Library Services at Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP and Laurel Murdoch, Manager, Library Services at Heenan Blaikie LLP (so it must be good!):

14. ***The Curmudgeon's Guide to Practicing Law*** by Mark Hermann – A humorous but pointed book that should be read by every articling student/new lawyer wishing to avoid common pitfalls in private practice.

Recommended by Brian Wynn, chair of the OBA Entertainment, Media & Communications Section and partner with Gardiner Roberts LLP:

15. ***Protect and Defend*** by Richard North Patterson – a compelling look into the U.S. justice system. The facets of the abortion issue and the political (!) intricacies of a Supreme Court nomination. A good read that also challenges and provides insight.

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