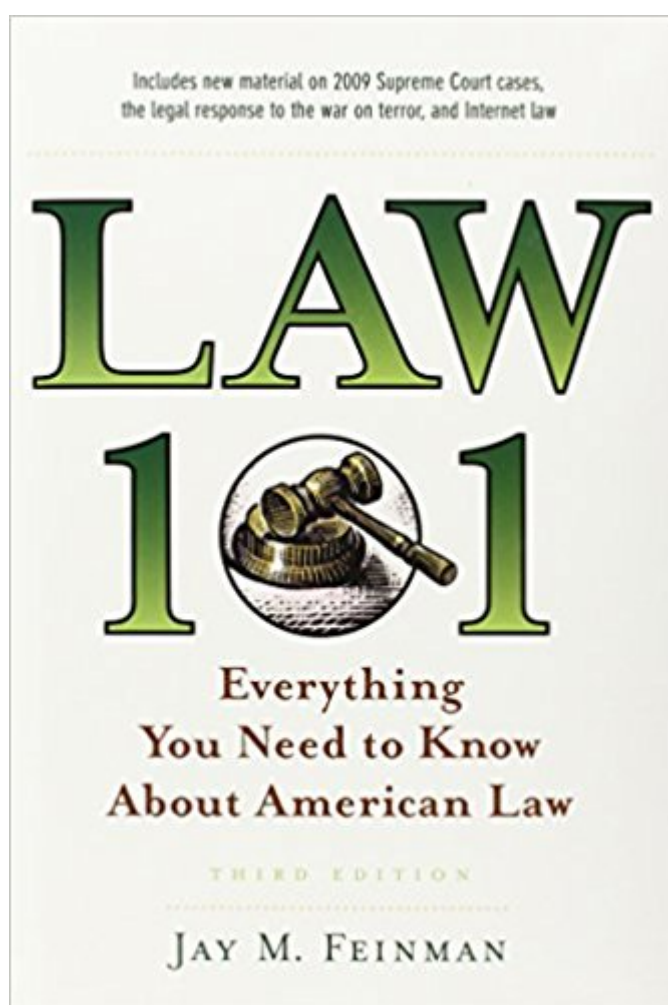


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# Law 101: Everything You Need To Know About American Law (Law 101: Everything You Need To Know About The American Legal System)



## Synopsis

The first two editions of the best-selling Law 101 provided readers with a vividly written and indispensable portrait of our nation's legal system. Now, in this third edition, Jay M. Feinman offers a fully updated survey of American law that incorporates fresh material on 2009 Supreme Court cases, the legal response to the war on terror (including the Guantanamo detainees and electronic surveillance), and to the latest developments in Internet law. In a book brimming with legal puzzles, interesting anecdotes, and thought-provoking questions, Jay M. Feinman's clear introduction to the law provides us with a solid understanding of the American legal tradition and covers the main subjects taught in the first year of law school. Readers are introduced to every aspect of the legal system, from constitutional law and the litigation process to tort law, contract law, property law, and criminal law. Feinman illuminates each discussion with many intriguing, outrageous, and infamous cases, from the scalding coffee case that cost McDonald's half a million dollars, to the sensational murder trial in Victorian London that led to the legal definition of insanity, to the epochal decision in *Marbury v. Madison* that gave the Supreme Court the power to declare state and federal law unconstitutional. He broadens the reader's legal vocabulary, clarifying the meaning of everything from "due process" and "equal protection" in constitutional law to the distinction between "murder" and "manslaughter" in criminal law. Perhaps most important, we learn that though the law is voluminous and complex, it is accessible to all. Everyone who wants a better grasp of current legal issues--from students contemplating law school, to journalists covering the legislature or the courts, to fans of Court TV--will find here a wonderful source of information: a complete, clear, and colorful map of the American legal system.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An engaging introduction to just about every aspect of law."--The American Lawyer  
"All the benefits of that first year of law school without the tedium, the terror, and the sleep deprivation...These legal lessons are presented in a style nearly always engaging and very often humorous."--Jurist  
"An entertaining and informative introduction to the law...For journalists, those interested in the law, and fans of television law dramas, this book should be required reading."--Library Journal  
"A layperson's introduction to the legal subjects that assault every first-year law student. From constitutional law to contracts to Dickensian procedures that guide civil suites, the book gives an approachable overview of the cases and concepts that combine to form our legal system."--NewarkStar-Ledger  
"Though a book is aimed at laypersons, it offers a good refresher course to update legal practitioners and paraprofessionals in areas where they do not specialize. A good read overall for those interested in the law."--Booklist  
"Law 101 attempts to teach you how to think like a lawyer--without requiring that you dedicate three years and tens of thousands of dollars to the task. The result? A practical book that is also a pleasure to read."--The Trenton Times  
"This basic text offers nonlawyers a concise, accessible overview of topics typically introduced in the first year of law school. Feinman, a law professor at Rutgers, cites seminal cases to highlight key concepts in the fields of constitutional law, civil procedure, torts, contracts, property, criminal law and criminal procedure. He does not minimize the actual complexity of these subjects, conceding variously that contract law has "tormented the most students," property law "most irritates students," conflicts of law "tortures students" and civil procedure is "the most alien." Nevertheless, he distinguishes his book from the various how-to-be-your-own-lawyer manuals on the market: 'This one is fun to read.' ...But many readers, particularly those contemplating law school, will find this a painless introduction to American legal theory and practice."--Publishers Weekly (Praise for the Second Edition)  
"Many readers, particularly those contemplating law school, will find this a painless introduction to American legal theory and practice."--Publishers Weekly  
"Feinman's style makes for easy reading, and Law101 is chock full of analyses, anecdotes, examples, questions, and legal reasoning set out in lay terms. Overall, the book provides an excellent explanation of what American law is, and it frequently suggests ways in which it might be improved."--TheFederal Lawyer

Jay M. Feinman serves as Distinguished Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law,

Camden. He is the author of five previous books, including *1001 Legal Words* and *Un-Making Law: The Conservative Campaign to Roll Back the Common Law*.

In *Law 101*, the author attempts to explain major concepts found in American law and the legal system without going into the finer detail. He succeeds. Major concepts covered in this book include constitutional law, basic rights, tort law, contract law, property law, and criminal law. Also covered are the litigation process in civil suits and criminal trials. Each of these subjects covers a lot of things, but the author has managed to succinctly summarize each one into the major things that need to be known in order to understand each topic. He also brings in famous and important court cases that really show how the law is applied to different situations. From important cases such as *Marbury v. Madison* or *Roe v. Wade* to more infamous cases such as when a woman scalded herself after spilling hot coffee and was able to successfully sue McDonald's. Even with the amount covered in this book, it still is only the tip of the iceberg. It really opened my eyes to just how complicated the law can be especially when it comes to dispensing justice fairly. I would recommend this book to those with an interest in learning about law and the American legal system. Although it will not turn you into a lawyer overnight, it will give a greater understanding of the major concepts of law and court cases often heard about in the news.

Outstandingly well written! It covers the first year law school courses. Well organized and very informative. Not written in "leagalease". Essential reading for the non-lawyer needing a general knowledge of the law. I'm not a lawyer and have read several books on the general subject of law. This book is far above the others in writing style, comprehensive, and the amount of info covered. I bought it as a "necessary" read, but was surprised at how well it is organized. A pleasant and informative read! I strongly recommend it

so this is not what I thought it was going to be, I wanted more well.... I was going to say *Law 101* type of info, which this titles itself as but its more like *Law 301* because of the more in depth case studies and explanations. A 101 course is an into and superficial course that covers a wide range of topics in one field of study. So I expected a more superficial (just the facts) and introductory "lesson" rather than something I needed to use a book mark with. I'm looking for a book that is basically an *Idiots Guid to the Law*. Like "here's some legal stuff that you probably had no clue even existed but you SHOULD". That type of book would be great.

A first class survey of law as it exists in the United States today. It is exactly what it claims to be in the title. This is a great topical overview of the body of US law. It covers the general areas of law in sections and gives a clear and adequately detailed explanation of each area of law. I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in having a good understanding of "how it is" in US law as compared to "how it was" or "how it should be". Clear statements of principles, well chosen examples for discussion and very relevant discussion without attempts to sell one point of view or another makes this a great source of learning.

I really enjoy this book. There are so many books / TV shows / movies about legal situations but not a single one that I have ever seen discusses how the law REALLY works on a day to day basis. This book does that and at the same time is entertaining. The author is a law school professor at Rutgers Camden (where my dad went to Law school 40 years ago). I am not a lawyer but I really enjoyed this book. It is both educational and entertaining.

This publication was well organized and explains law in a way that kept me coming back for more. Additionally, there were many insights that inspired me to do further research. Finally, if you think you want to be involved in the law or simply want to educate yourself on the finer points regarding public policy and current affairs and how law ties into these disciplines, this is the book you want to read.

This book is written in a way that is both educational and interesting! I needed this more school, but I will hold onto it in my collection because it had so much useful information to our law system.

Have only gotten through less than half. It is interesting but so far all it is about is the Constitution and is a bit dry But I want to learn so I will keep going.....

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