

What are the best books for Law applicants to read?

One introduction stands out:

What About Law? Studying Law at University

Catherine Barnard, Janet O'Sullivan and Graham Virgo (editors)
Hart Publishing (2011) ISBN-13: 978-1-84946-085-9

This book is designed for those considering Law as a degree subject, especially those who have not yet studied it. Different sections are written by 6 members of University of Cambridge's Law faculty.

An introductory chapter gives an outline of the English legal system and the mindset that lawyers (and prospective students of Law) are required to adopt in approaching a case.

Most of the book is divided into 7 chapters, which correspond to the 7 core, compulsory elements in an LLB or "qualifying" Law degree (i.e., a degree which is the first step in qualifying to become a practising lawyer): Criminal, Contract, Tort, Land, Equity, Constitutional, EU Law. Each chapter illustrates major issues in each of these core disciplines by focusing on a particular case.

I advise anyone who is thinking about applying for Law to read this book. By the end, the potential applicant will have a good idea of whether this is the right subject to pursue further.

Another excellent book for the potential Law student is:

Eve Was Framed: Women and British Justice

Helena Kennedy
Vintage (1992, revised 2005) ISBN 9780099224419

I strongly recommend this disturbing and clearly written account by one of the UK's most prominent lawyers.

As the blurb on the back cover states:

"Eve Was Framed offers an impassioned, personal critique of the British legal system and has become a classic text. Helena Kennedy focuses on the treatment of women in our courts – on the prejudices of judges, the misconceptions of jurors, the labyrinths of court procedures and the influence of the media. But the inequalities she uncovers could apply equally to any disadvantaged group – to those whose cases are subtly affected by race, class poverty or politics, or who are burdened, even before they appear in court, by misleading stereotypes."

Both of these books are available in paperback.

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