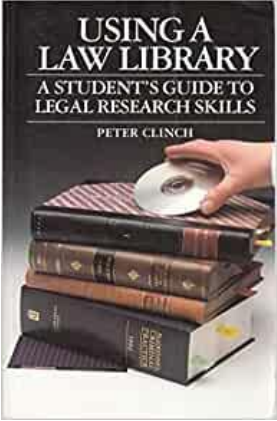
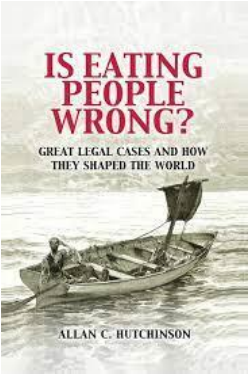
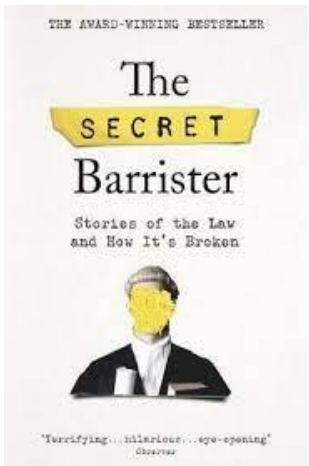
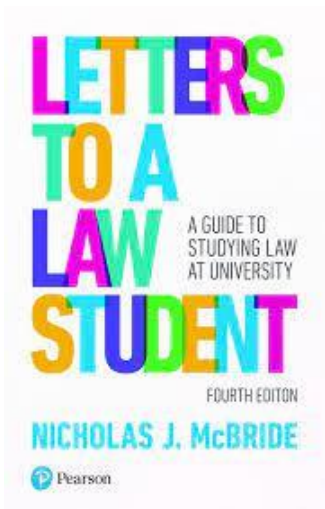
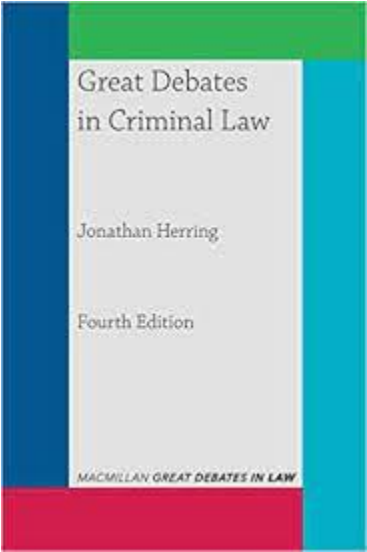
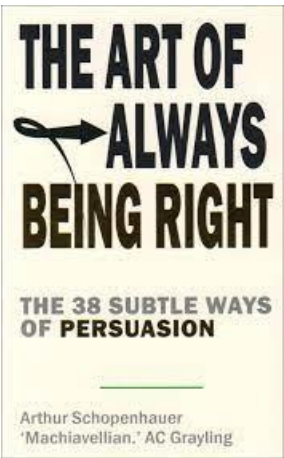
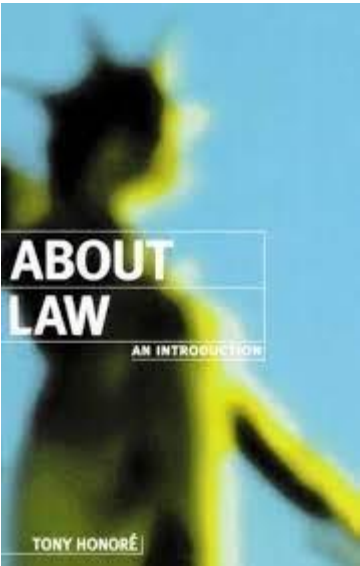


## SHSG Reading List for applying to study Law

	<p>Using a Law Library: A Student's Guide to Legal Research Skills</p>	<p>Peter Clinch</p>	<p>Legal research skills are vital for solicitors and barristers. It will be an expected that you can find cases, legislation, journal articles and other sources. Give this easy-to-access book a read to put you at an advantage.</p>
	<p>Is Eating People Wrong?: Great Legal Cases and How they Shaped the World</p>	<p>Allan Hutchinson</p>	<p>If you want to understand what the common law is like, this book is for you. It is a text suggested to aspiring law students all the time, but it is surprising just how many actually read it.</p> <p>Hutchinson's storytelling of eight landmark cases provides for an interesting and thought provoking read.</p>

	<p><b>The Secret Barrister: Stories of the Law and How It's Broken</b></p>	<p><b>The Secret Barrister</b></p>	<p>Aspiring solicitors and barristers alike will benefit from reading this one. The Secret Barrister's insight into our underfunded criminal justice system is both hugely entertaining, and shocking. If you aspire to work in criminal law, this book is a must-read.</p>
	<p><b>Letters to a Law Student: A Guide to Studying Law at University</b></p>	<p><b>Nicholas J. McBride</b></p>	<p>One of the most famous law books in the world, and one that is highly recommended for all prospective students heading off to study law at university is Nicholas J. McBride's <i>Letters to a Law Student</i>. As the name suggests, McBride's book is broken up into a digestible collection of 'letters' which are addressed to a fictional student. Together, they form a collection which outlines what it's like to study Law in higher education, and more importantly, invites you to think deeply about whether studying the subject at university is right for you. McBride by definition, is an author, professor, and University of Cambridge Fellow, making him well-equipped to offer advice to prospective Law students. Not only does he touch on topics about what it's like to study law, he also offers practical advice on what it's like to study the subject at different universities.</p>

	<p><b>Great Debates in Criminal Law</b></p>	<p><b>Jonathan Herring</b></p>	<p>Reading <i>Great Debates in Criminal Law</i> will introduce you to key debates that are going on in this area of law. This text is informative, simple to read and will keep you well informed when it comes to making those applications and discussing criminal law area in interviews. (If you enjoy family, equity, contract or jurisprudence, there's a <i>Great Debates</i> book for these too.)</p> <p>If criminal law is a module which you think would interest you at university, then this book is a must-read. Written by Jonathan Herring, Professor of Law at the University of <a href="#">Oxford</a> and Fellow in Law at Exeter College, it's a great introduction to key concepts in Criminal Law, including the key tensions and questions which surround it.</p> <p>Primarily designed to encourage you to think critically and analyse specificities within topics, each chapter is structured around a key debate to encourage deeper thought. For example, 'Why do we have the laws we have?' or 'Could criminal law look differently?'</p>
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	<p>The Art of Always Being Right: The 38 Subtle Ways of Persuasion</p>	<p>Arthur Schopenhauer</p>	<p>Although not strictly a 'law book', this text is very good at equipping you with an understanding of how to argue and persuade people. As the legal profession requires these and other qualities, this is an incredibly useful book to read. The art of persuasion (also known as rhetoric) will not only be of use in the profession but also when making written applications. If you can simplify your argument, make it easy to follow and be persuasive, you can guarantee yourself to impress those who come across thousands of applications.</p>
	<p>About Law</p>	<p>Tony Honoré</p>	<p>Complete newbie? Looking for law books for beginners? Then look no further than Tony Honoré's <i>About Law</i>. Short but certainly not lacking any detail, <i>About Law</i> offers a very basic, but great introduction to law and a range of topics, including; the purpose of law, a simple explanation of how it works, as well as an introduction to the legal system in England. Honoré is one of the most renowned legal academics and understands the complexities of law. But this doesn't mean he speaks in jargon. In fact, quite the opposite; using technical terminology only when necessary, but <i>always</i> providing a glossary of terms and explaining them in detail.</p>

	<p><b>How the Law Works</b></p>	<p><b>Gary Slapper</b></p>	<p>A comprehensive, witty, and easy-to-read law book for beginners, Gary Slapper's <i>How Law Works</i> is a refreshing but reliable guide to the modern legal system here in the UK. Providing both interesting yet comprehensive coverage of UK law, Slapper's book avoids the legal jargon, providing an accessible entry point to the different types of law and legal techniques used within the system. It also clarifies the mechanisms behind criminal and civil law, as well as introducing readers to the ideas of 'compensation culture' and human rights law.</p> <p><i>How the Law Works</i> is essential reading for students approaching the subject at university in the near future, or for anyone with an interest in being introduced to English and Welsh Law here in the UK.</p>
	<p><b>Landmarks in the Law</b></p>	<p><b>Lord Denning</b></p>	<p>Some argue that Lord Denning's work is dated, however it cannot be argued that he is one of the most recognisable names in legal history. You get to learn about how he arrived at certain decisions and the fundamental cases that form what we understand as the law.</p> <p>Again, understanding the timeline of events that altered the law will be so handy when it comes to interviews. You can have engage in a meaningful conversation where you use what you know to suggest what areas of law you would reform – an impressive ability.</p>

Other books, including works of fiction, which are sometimes recommended or can add to the depth of knowledge of a law applicant:

## 1. Bleak House, by Charles Dickens

*“The one great principle of the English law is, to make business for itself. There is no other principle distinctly, certainly, and consistently maintained through all its narrow turnings. Viewed by this light it becomes a coherent scheme, and not the monstrous maze the laity are apt to think it. Let them but once clearly perceive that its grand principle is to make business for itself at their expense, and surely they will cease to grumble.”*

Offering something slightly different to the other books on our list, fans of Dickens may well have already read his novel *Bleak House* – as it is still cited as one of his best works today. Recognised as one of the most famous law books – most likely thanks to its author – this 19th Century novel tells the story of a court case in London which concerns the complications which often arise with death of family members and wills.

Less informative than some of the other law books on our list but still considered a great read for those looking for something a little less factual, it offers an insightful depiction of the types of character tropes that are characteristic of legal professionals in London in the 19th Century – some of which are still highly prevalent amongst the legal community today.

## 2. The Firm, by John Grisham

*“Some of our clients have not been saints, but no lawyer can dictate morals to his client.”*

Another one for the fiction lovers! Spending 44 weeks on the New York Times' bestseller lists, this thrilling 1991 read outlines the fictional story of Harvard graduate Mitch McDeere, who finds himself working for the Mafia's very own law firm.

What McDeere perceived to be his dream job; a high-paid salary, new home, and keys to a brand new BMW, actually turned into one of his worst nightmares. With mysterious deaths of previous lawyers within the firm, FBI investigations, and top-secret files, he soon finds out just how difficult it is to escape the murky world of the mafia.

A truly engaging and unusual story about the highest law principles, you'll be gripped from start to finish as you watch McDeere juggling against both the 'good' and 'bad' sides of the law. See how McDeere plays both sides against each other – and navigates a criminal conspiracy that goes far beyond anything he ever expected.

### 3. Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? By Michael J. Sandel

*"Self-knowledge is like lost innocence; however unsettling you find it, it can never be 'unthought' or 'unknown'."*

Is it always wrong to lie? Can murder cases sometimes be justified? Questions like these dominate our lives, but often are addressed with little to no thought on a daily basis.

Published in 2010, Harvard professor, Michael J. Sandel, and his acclaimed book, *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* invites readers on a journey of moral reflection, encouraging us to think through and question the complexities of modern social dilemmas.

A lively and thought-provoking read, Sandel introduces us to a range of political and philosophical theories and ideologies, provoking us to think about a number of difficult questions related to topics such as same-sex marriage, euthanasia, and equal rights. By the end, Sandel demonstrates how having a basic understanding of philosophy can help us to make sense of politics, morality and convictions. And help us to reach more balanced conclusions in the future.

Considered one of the best law books to offer an easy and accessible introduction to the complexities of modern moralities, it's a must-read for those heading off to university who are looking to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the dilemmas many legal professionals face during their careers.



#### 4. Jeremy Hutchinson's Case Histories: From Lady Chatterley's Lover to Howard Marks, by Thomas Grant

*"The book that follows is not a conventional biography; nor is it conventional history. Rather, what I have attempted is a kind of social history of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s told through the lens of its leading criminal cases, bound together by the common thread that in each case the defence was conducted by the same man."*

Ready to get inspired ahead of your university studies? Meet Jeremy Hutchinson, one of the UK's leading criminal barristers of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. In the famous biographical law book, *Case Histories*, Thomas Hunt expertly collates some of Hutchinson's most famous cases of this period – including some which have gone on to shape our political and cultural history.

Having defended some notable figures through history, including the famous Christine Keeler, Great Train robber Charlie Wilson, as well as Kempton Bunton (the only man to have ever successfully 'stolen' a picture from the National Gallery), *Case Stories* provides entertaining, vivid, and deeply revealing insights into what really took place in these celebrated courtroom dramas that defined a period, all while painting a picture of a truly remarkable life.

It's a great introduction to some of the most notable legal cases throughout history, while also providing a great introduction to the UK legal system.