Summary of Key Pre-Law Books

The following books are on reserve at the library. I suggest you get on Amazon and buy a few of them – used copies are cheap and just as good – and I will specify which ones. The others are resources you should have a look at via the reserve desk.

**Law School**

[*Law School Confidential*](https://www.amazon.com/Law-School-Confidential-Complete-Experience/dp/0312605110/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509128773&sr=8-1&keywords=law+school+confidential), Robert H. Miller. Buy this book if you are at all serious about going to law school. It’s comprehensive. You don’t need to read it all immediately – the first few chapters are critical reading as you consider law school. The balance of the book provides extremely helpful guidance on how to succeed once you get into law school, so you can save those for later. If you only read one book, this is the one.

[*The Ivey Guide to Law School Admissions*](https://www.amazon.com/Ivey-Guide-Law-School-Admissions-ebook/dp/B0045UA7OK/ref=sr_1_1_twi_kin_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1509128921&sr=8-1&keywords=The+Ivey+Guide+to+Law+School+Admissions), Anna Ivey. If you are shooting for a school that’s going to be hard to get into, get the Kindle version of this book, which is the only way to get the Second Edition. The First Edition is on reserve in the library. This is the best resource on the law school admissions game.

[*55 Harvard Law School Application Essays.*](https://www.amazon.com/Successful-Harvard-School-Application-Essays-ebook/dp/B00HY0197C/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1509129038&sr=1-1&keywords=55+Harvard+Law+School+Application+Essays.) You don’t need to buy this book, just go grab it on reserve and spend an hour with it *before* you write your personal statement for any law school. The Harvard part doesn’t matter – these essays will help you a lot in figuring out how to approach things for your own essay.

[*Don’t Go to Law School (Unless)*](https://www.amazon.com/Dont-Law-School-Unless-Opportunity-ebook/dp/B009D13IA6/ref=sr_1_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1509129215&sr=1-1&keywords=Don%27t+go+to+law+school+unless),Paul Campos. Only $5 on Kindle, and on reserve in the library. Campos is a withering critic of the current situation in legal education and the legal profession. He’s controversial, but he tells it like he sees it. The book is short, and you should know its basic arguments: for a quick tour of the dark underbelly of what you’re considering getting yourself into, grab a copy of this book. It’s worth $5 to challenge yourself – do I really want to do this? Campos may not be right about everything, but he’s right about an awful lot – in short, he will tell you everything the brochures and law school admissions folks will never, ever tell you.

[*The Official LSAT Superprep*](https://www.amazon.com/Official-LSAT-SuperPrep-Champion-Prep/dp/0979305063/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1509129361&sr=8-1&keywords=official+lsat+superprep), by the [LSAC](https://www.lsac.org/). This is just one of many LSAT prep resources, and you should explore others (Google will get you a quick list; talk to the pre-law advisor about options). Grab the copy on reserve in the library to flip through it and get a sense of what’s going on here. Don’t worry if it seems a little old – the LSAT changes very, very little over time (LSAC’s newest version of this resources is ©2007, and they *write* the LSAT – so it’s a fair inference that the test hasn’t changed appreciably since at least then).

**The Legal Profession**

[24 Hours with 24 Lawyers](https://www.amazon.com/24-Hours-Lawyers-Traditional-Non-Traditional/dp/0314276319), Jasper Kim. Great book – as the title says, it profiles 24 lawyers and tells you what a typical day looks like for each of them in some detail. The range of lawyers covered is just right, including criminal prosecution and defense, corporate, family law, energy, music/entertainment law – the whole range, even including a few that aren’t really practicing law. This book is absolutely worth spending some time with – just pick the types of lawyers you’re interested in, read the executive summary, and read a bit, or all, of the entry for that person. You’ll get a feel for what the work looks like, and what their lives look like. This is a great place to start as you consider a legal career.

[*The Official Guide to Legal Specialties*](https://www.amazon.com/Official-Guide-Specialties-Career-Guides/dp/0159003911), Lisa Abrams. A copy is on reserve in the library, and it wouldn’t be a bad idea at all to get a cheap used copy online. This book outlines every major practice area of the law and describes it, interviewing lawyers in the area and painting a picture of what it really is. If you want to do entertainment law, environmental law, international law, whatever – there’s no way to know what that *really looks like day to day* without a resource like this. I’m unaware of other resources that cover the territory this covers. It’s the best source. It is a little dated – published in 2000, but the good news, sort of, is that the legal profession moves so slowly that the information in here isn’t quite as terribly outdated as the © year suggests.

[Career Opportunities in Law and the Legal Industry](https://www.amazon.com/Career-Opportunities-Legal-Industry-Paperback/dp/0816067171/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1509130194&sr=1-1&keywords=Career+Opportunities+in+Law+and+the+Legal+Industry)*,* Susan Echaore-McDavid. This is a far more mechanical listing of different legal jobs than the *Official Guide to Legal Specialties* above, but may be a useful supplement. Unlike the *Guide*, this book goes into areas beyond just the practice of law – so it discusses criminal justice jobs, court employees and the like too.

[*Managing Your Legal Career*](https://www.amazon.com/Managing-Your-Legal-Career-Practices/dp/1604429003/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1509129917&sr=1-1&keywords=Managing+Your+Legal+Career)*,* Richard L. Hermann. This is a pretty exhaustive guide to finding a law job. More relevant to law students than pre-law students, this book is an exploration of the mechanics of how to actually get hired. It’s not a review of different legal practice areas (*Guide to Legal Specialties* covers that ground, and that *is* critical ground for undergraduates to consider).

[*A Life in the Law – Advice for Young Lawyers*](https://www.amazon.com/Life-Law-Advice-Young-Lawyers/dp/1604425962/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1509130238&sr=1-1&keywords=A+Life+in+the+Law+%E2%80%93+Advice+for+Young+Lawyers), William S. Duffey Jr., Ed. This is an interesting set of very short essays, and you may find them useful in prompting thoughts as you write your personal statements, or just helpful context as you’re getting to understand different angles on the profession. Don’t buy it – just grab it on reserve and spend a bit of time with it. Each essay is just a few pages long, so you can read one or two and get something out of it.