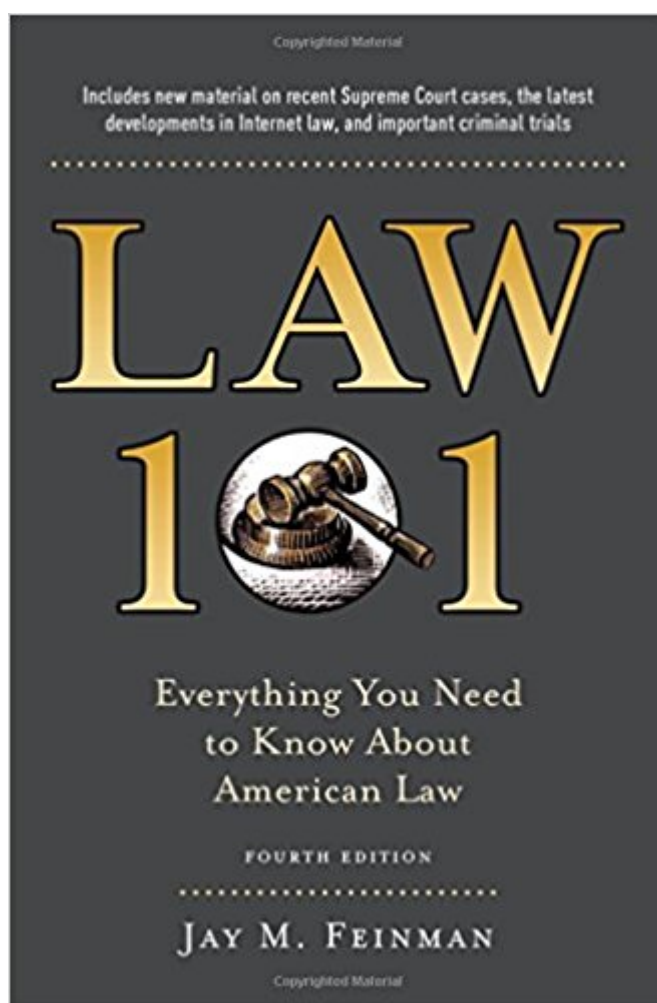


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# Law 101: Everything You Need To Know About American Law, Fourth Edition



## Synopsis

In each of the first three editions of the bestselling Law 101, Jay Feinman gave readers an upbeat and vivid examination of the American legal system. Since the third edition was published in 2010, much has happened: several key Supreme Court cases have been decided, we've seen sensational criminal trials, and the legal system has had to account for the latest developments in Internet law. This fully updated fourth edition of Law 101 accounts for all this and more, as Feinman once again provides a clear introduction to American law. The book covers all the main subjects taught in the first year of law school, and discusses every facet of the American legal tradition, including constitutional law, the litigation process, and criminal, property, and contracts law. To accomplish this, Feinman brings in the most noteworthy, infamous, and often outrageous examples and cases. We learn about the case involving scalding coffee that cost McDonald's half a million dollars, the murder trial in Victorian London that gave us the legal definition of insanity, and the epochal decision of Marbury vs. Madison that gave the Supreme Court the power to declare state and federal law unconstitutional. A key to learning about the law is learning legal vocabulary, and Feinman helps by clarifying terms like "due process" and "equal protection," as well as by drawing distinctions between terms like "murder" and "manslaughter." Above all, though, is that Feinman reveals to readers of all kinds that despite its complexities and quirks, the law is can be understood by everyone. Perfect for students contemplating law school, journalists covering legislature, or even casual fans of "court-television" shows, Law 101 is a clear and accessible introduction to the American legal system. New to this edition: Featured analysis of: -the Obamacare case-Citizens United-the DOMA decision-the Trayvon Martin case As well as recent legal developments pertaining to: -online contracting-mortgages-police investigations-criminal sentencing

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Praise for the previous editions: "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." --Newark Star-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." --The Federal Lawyer "Academic law libraries and law libraries serving the public, academic libraries serving

undergraduate students, and public libraries will find this book a good addition to their collections. This book is also a good read for students thinking of attending law school and for those persons who have been away from the practice of law but are interested in getting reacquainted with its basics." -Alicia G. Jones, Reference Librarian, Lesar Law Library, Southern Illinois University School of Law, Law Library Journal

Jay M. Feinman is Distinguished Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law. He is the author of six books, including *Delay, Deny, Defend: Why Insurance Companies Don't Pay Claims and What You Can Do About It*.

I finally completed my law degree after 5 long years of stop and start. A life-time goal achieved. Since now I want to take the bar exam, I need to begin "refreshing" myself on law issues all over again. "Law 101" is a perfect fit. Well written, very detailed and most important, up-to-date with current case law all all civil, criminal and constitutional matters. I highly recommend the book to law students, licensed lawyers and even lay persons.

This is basically a lay person's law degree in a single, easy to read and understand volume. Mr. Feinman avoids the usual legalese and writes in a way that's actually understandable by the average person. He adequately covers every subject that most readers are likely to encounter. The best part: Even though it's always wise to consult an attorney on legal matters, this book fully equipped me to ask the right questions of my attorney and to develop the best legal approach based on a sound understanding of the legal principles that apply to a particular situation. One of the best book investments I've ever made - A+++..

If you are a citizen of the United States, then the law of the United States affects your life in some way, shape, or form, even if you can't necessarily articulate in a comprehensive manner just how it affects you, and if you don't have a solid grasp about how it works. This is essentially a preliminary guide for non-lawyers and non-law students to more effectively think about, discuss, and navigate various legal issues that affect their lives and capture their attention. It's also a good read for those who are either planning to go to or just thinking about law school.

Anyone who wants to get a good grasp of how the inner workings of the law operate and affect our daily lives; this book is a good place to start. While in some chapters the explanations can be a bit

dry and the application of certain legal terms or theories(substantive law) remain vague ideas. Overall though this book demonstrates itself as a useful tool that I would recommend over others as far as an introduction to American Law goes.

I Attended 2 years of law school. This is a great refresher plus a few things I didn't know or remember. Easy read. Great for anyone interested in the real American Law. Not the B.S. you see on T.V. shows or read in the paper. Lets you know what the real law is.Book is at a good price.

If you are looking for a book to give you a great overview of American Law and how it works this is perfect. It is engaging and informative. This book is very much an overview. If you have a decent grasp on law you may need something more in depth.

In the United States it seems as though the law is everywhere. We are expected to follow the rules of the road when driving, not to steal when at the grocery store, and treat others appropriately. The law also attracts national attention as the Supreme Court grapples with issues and high-profile trials happen in courtrooms around the country. Sometimes it seems like the law is too complicated and inaccessible to the average citizen. However, this need not be and with Law 101 anyone with an interest in the basics of law can get an idea of how it works.The law can be incredibly complicated, but Law 101 offers some of the most important aspects of it in the most important areas. Feinman explains that the book is meant to look at the same material that an average, first year law student would see. He covers some major subjects such as constitutional law regarding things like freedom of speech and freedom of religion. He also looks at tort law, property law, and contract law. In discussing these subjects he cites many Supreme Court cases and cases from lower courts and state courts that have shaped our understanding and application of American law. In relation to these subjects he also explains civil procedure and how parties go through litigation. Finally, he covers criminal law and criminal procedure, explaining how the state can convict and punish a person and for what reasons.I previously read the third edition of this book a few years ago and enjoyed it very much. This new, fourth edition includes some recent additions such as the latest Supreme Court decisions regarding the Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare), the George Zimmerman trial, and the law's difficulty in being applied to the Internet.This is a very informative book that any American can read to get a basic understanding of the law. I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn something about the law.

I bought this book for my brother and for what he has read so far he seems to really enjoy it and says it is very informative

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