

Popular Threads on Solosez

What Is the Greatest Lawyer Novel of All Time?

What is the greatest lawyer novel of all time? Could it be Presumed Innocent (Scott Turow, 1988), or perhaps Gideon's Trumpet (Anthony Lewis, 1964), or maybe The Runaway Jury (John Grisham, 2003)? Any others?

John J. Pedone

The summation speech in Grisham's A Time to Kill is fantastic, but Rainmaker is some nice old fashion "lawyering."

Larry Kramer Silver Spring, Maryland

Gideon's Trumpet was nonfiction.

Roger Bartlett, Texas

For me, it's still "To Kill A Mockingbird." Hands down.

Lyza Sandgren, Paralegal, Suwanee, Georgia

Sorry. Grisham may be a quick, semi-enjoyable, beach read but after reading 2 of his books forget it. He is a terrible writer. Then again my wife says when it comes to books I am a snob and she finds my light reading too "heavy." I was an English Lit major and read Tolstoy and Le Mort D'Arthur and on rare occasionally Chaucer in the original Middle English for fun and US History as a hobby.

Although I wouldn't nominate him as the "greatest" John Mortimer Rumpole books are my favorite "lawyer" books.

For "greatest" maybe Auchinloss' The Practice although it is more a collection of short stories than a novel.

I always considered Turow more mystery novelist than anything else where the lead character happens to be a lawyer.

Jonathan Bressman, Florham Park, New Jersey



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Books

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Herman Wouk, The Caine Mutiny

Charles Dickens, Bleak House

Anatomy of a Murder (can't remember the author)

Sharon Campbell

TKAM, hands down.

I wanted once to get a Gouldian Finch in a nice antique style cage for the office, and I was going to have a little plaque engraved with his name, which was going to be Atticus, to see if anyone got the reference, but A. Those little suckers are pricy and B. Dawn said it would freeze to death near the office door.

If we're going for the most overrated works, anything by Grisham works for me.

Jim Moriarty, Cresco, Iowa

And forever.....

But for those of you intersted in "true" history, there was a book about 30 years or so ago about Clarence Darrow's defense of Leopold and Loeb in the Bobby Frank murder case early in the 20th century. Very interesting story, chilling, kinda like "In Cold Blood".

Randal A. Harvey, Troy, Ohio

A second vote for Bleak House.

Any time I get frustrated with the probate courts I think back on it and contemplate how much worse it could be. The character types of the lawyers and their clients are very well drawn, and still very credible today. In the end, all the lawyers get paid, so there is a happy ending in spite of all the death and lives wasted in misery and agony.

James A. McGill, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

And the nice thing is that one can download it from Project Gutenberg at <http://promo.net/pg>.

I am reminded from the above (and from the Jarndyce case in Bleak House) of the quote that an old friend and colleague in Boston used to say about not allowing an estate to be dissipated into the hands of the heirs.

Norman Solberg, Osaka, Japan

Why not Shakespeare's *Henry VI*!

PART II reveals that Cade's rebellion was beginning to gather support. Some *Dick*, a supporter of Cade's rebellion utters:

"*Let's kill all the lawyers.*" Although not a per se lawyer novel, the play directs our attention to why *lawyers* are *integral* in a democratic society: *Dick* was referring to specific ways the Cade's rebellion was to be succesful. *Dick* recognized that for the rebellion to succeed, Cade's followers needed to get rid of all those who knew and enforce the then existing *system* of laws. *Dick* did not want any learned and informed opposition against Cade's rebellion in overthrowing the existing form of government. Thus, the need to kill* all the lawyers!!!*

This is indeed lofty, isn't folks! Lawyers as the guardians of government.

Christian De Olivas, San Diego, California

Charles Dickens, Great Expectations. Well, not about a Lawyer, but I love the lawyer in that book, always washing his hands. Joel Selik -----

The two that stand out most memorably for me are To Kill a Mockingbird - - Harper Lee (heavily influenced by the excellence of the movie) and A Time to Kill, Grisham's first. I have read only a couple of other Grisham books, none of which match this one in authenticity of characters, conveying the texture of the setting, and depth of insight into a lawyer's struggles. Donald M. Spector, New York, New York

How about To Kill a Mockingbird?

J. Robert Thompson, Lilburn, Georgia

I was given a signed first edition upon graduation from law school. My most cherished possession.

Justin Andrus

Anatomy of a Murder by Robert Travers (a pseudonym for a Northern Michigan judge, whose real name I don' recall).

If you've never read it, read it -- particularly if you practice criminal defense.

And, a realistic ending - the client beats the lawyer out of his fee.

(This is also my #1 lawyer movie and #2 legal movie; I think someone asked about that a while back as well).

Barry Lippitt, Southfield, Michigan

A Civil Action. Required reading during torts and civ pro in law school.

Also, not a lawyer book - but a moving trial scene in one of the greatest novels ever written - The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Doestoyevsky

K. Gordon Crawford

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