



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

By Jay Feinman

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## Law 101: Everything You Need to Know About American Law, Fourth Edition By Jay Feinman

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 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

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### Editorial Review

Review

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"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*

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#### About the Author

**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*.

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