

Study Aids: Criminal Law



The Law Library's collection has various study aids on numerous legal subject areas. Some study aids are referred to as hornbooks, others as nutshells. A hornbook is a single volume covering an area of law with references to cases, statutes, and secondary sources such as law review articles and *American Law Reports* annotations. The hornbooks and nutshells are published by West/Thomson Reuters. Unlike a hornbook, a nutshell provides a basic overview of the legal concepts in a particular area of law with few references to cases, statutes, and secondary sources. LexisNexis publishes the "*Understanding*" series and Aspen Publishers publishes the *Examples and Explanations* series of study aids. Foundation Press, an independent affiliate of West/Thomson Reuters, also publishes the *Concepts and Insights* series on various areas of the law.

Current editions of these study aids are available on Reserve. Copy 1 and Copy 2 of a study aid circulate for two hours and are restricted to use within the Law Library. Copy 3 and higher can be checked out of the Law Library for forty-eight (48) hours. Note, a fine of 50 cents is accrued for each hour that a book checked out from Reserve is overdue! Older editions of the study aids are shelved in the stacks by their call number and can be checked out from the Law Library for twenty-one days.

Even more detailed information on a legal subject area can be found in a single volume or in a multi-volume set referred to as a treatise. These treatises can be searched by author, by advanced keyword, by subject (**Criminal Law United States**) or by title using the Law Library's WebCatalog. The treatises are shelved by their call number in the Library's open stacks. Most single volume treatises can be checked out from the Law Library for twenty-one days.

The following is a list of recommended study aids in the Law Library's collection on criminal law:

◆ Dressler, Joshua, *Understanding Criminal Law* (5th ed. 2009). Reserve, KF9219 .D74 2009

Topics include principles of criminal punishment, sources of the criminal law, constitutional limits on the criminal law, legality, proportionality, burdens of proof, presumptions, *actus reus*, *mens rea*, strict liability, mistakes of fact and law, causation, concurrence of elements, defenses, justifications and excuses, self-defense, defense of others, defense of property and habitation, law enforcement, necessity, duress, intoxication, insanity, diminished capacity, attempt, solicitation, conspiracy, liability for the acts of others, criminal homicide, theft, and rape.

◆ LaFave, Wayne R., *Criminal Law* (4th ed. 2003 -). Reserve, KF9219 .L38 2003 -

This hornbook offers a detailed, comprehensive treatment of criminal law. An introduction to criminal law, sources and general limitations, constitutional limits on power to create crimes, and criminal jurisdiction are covered in Part One. General principles of mental states, concurrences and consequences of acts, insanity defense and its procedural considerations, excuses and other conditions, justification, solicitation and attempt, conspiracy, liability for the conduct of another are the topics of Part Two. Part Three addresses offenses against the person which include murder, suicide assistance, physical harm and apprehension thereof, rape, and confinement. Part Four is

about offenses against personal and real property. In the appendix are tips on using Westlaw to research criminal law.

◆ LaFave, Wayne R., *Principles of Criminal Law* (2003). Reserve, KF9219.3 .L34 2003

Published as part of the West/Thomson Reuters *Concise Hornbook* series, the author provides fewer references to cases and secondary sources than in his hornbook, *Criminal Law*. In this text, there is less discussion of particular crimes with the exception of homicide, rape, and theft. There is discussion of the principles of mental state, acts and their consequences, defenses to crime, inchoate criminality, and liability for the conduct of others.

◆ Loewy, Arnold H., *Criminal Law in a Nutshell* (5th ed. 2009). Reserve, KF9219.85 .L63 2009

Aspects of punishment is the topic of Part I. Part II addresses crimes against the person and property in addition to causation and defenses. Covered in Part III are *mens rea* (intent) and *actus reus*. Insanity and other defenses are the subjects of Part IV. Burden of proof and presumptions and inferences are written about in Part V. Attempt, accountability for the acts of others, conspiracy, and corporate criminal liability are discussed in Part VI. The limitations of the criminal law are discussed in Part VII.

◆ Singer, Richard G. and John Q. La Fond, *Criminal Law: Examples and Explanations* (4th ed. 2007). Reserve, KF9219.3 .S54 2007

There are chapters on the sources and limitations of the criminal law, the purposes of punishment, *actus reus*, the doctrines of *mens rea*, mistake, strict liability, causation, homicide, rape, theft, solicitation, attempt, conspiracy, complicity, defenses, acts in emergency, and defenses based on individual characteristics. Each discussion of the topic is followed by examples for the reader to work through along with explanations of the examples.

Electronic Study Aid: CALI

In addition to the print study aids, CALI (Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction) provides electronic access to interactive lessons on criminal law in addition to other subjects. All incoming first-year students receive a CALI CD in their orientation packet. Lessons are also available via the CALI website at www.cali.org. When signing up for access at the CALI website, you will need to obtain the law school's authorization code from a reference librarian. To view an annotated listing of the CALI lessons available for criminal law, select "Criminal Law" under the heading "CALI Topics."