



# **Library Resources to Help You Study for Exams**

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2011

**ROBERT S. MARX LAW LIBRARY**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF LAW**  
<http://www.law.uc.edu/library/>

## ***Preparing for & Taking Exams***

Did you know the Law Library can help you prepare for exams? The following materials can assist you in your exam preparation.

### **Books available at the Law Library**

- ANN M. BURKHART & ROBERT A. STEIN, *LAW SCHOOL SUCCESS IN A NUTSHELL: A GUIDE TO STUDYING LAW AND TAKING LAW SCHOOL EXAMS* (2d ed. 2008). **Reserves KF283 .B871 2008.**
- SUZANNE DARROW-KLEINHAUS, *MASTERING THE LAW SCHOOL EXAM: A PRACTICAL BLUEPRINT FOR PREPARING AND TAKING LAW SCHOOL EXAMS* (2007). **Reserves KF283 .D37 2007**
- JOHN C. DERNBACH, *A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO WRITING LAW SCHOOL ESSAY EXAMS* (2001). **Reserves KF283 .D47 2001**
- RICHARD MICHAEL FISCHL AND JEREMY PAUL, *GETTING TO MAYBE: HOW TO EXCEL ON LAW SCHOOL EXAMS* (1999). **Reserves KF283 .F47 1999**
- HELENE SHAPO & MARSHALL SHAPO, *LAW SCHOOL WITHOUT FEAR : STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS* (3d ed. 2009). **Stacks KF 240 .S52 2009**
- CHARLES H. WHITEBREAD, *THE EIGHT SECRETS OF TOP EXAM PERFORMANCE IN LAW SCHOOL : AN EASY-TO-USE, STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH FOR ACHIEVING GREAT GRADES* (2008). **Reserves KF283 .W48 2008**

### **Articles**

- Amy L. Jarmon, *If Exams Could Talk: Insights from Last Semester*, *STUDENT LAW.*, Jan. 2009, at 11. [Hein Online](#).
- Rosemary LaPuma, *Don't Stress Over Exams*, *STUDENT LAW.*, Nov. 2005, at 20. [Hein Online](#).
- Jerry J. Phillips, *Thirteen Rules for Taking Law Exams*, 72 *TENN. L. REV.* 797 (2005). [Hein Online](#).
- Dennis J. Tonsing, *A Plan for Your Exams*, *STUDENT LAW.*, Mar. 2005, at 32. [Hein Online](#).
- Patrick Wiseman, *"When You Come to a Fork in the Road, Take It," and Other Sage Advice for First-Time Law School Exam Takers*, 22 *GA. ST. U. L. REV.* 653 (2006). [Hein Online](#).

### **Podcasts & YouTube Videos**

- William R. Andersen, [Writing Better Law School Exams: The Importance of Structure](#).

- This is a CALI lesson. CALI lessons in general can be accessed at <http://www.cali.org/>. To obtain a password to register and use CALI, contact a reference librarian.
- Ronald Brown & Joseph Grohman, [Exam Taking Skills, Outlines, and Advice for Law Students: Panel 2 \(podcast\)](#).
  - This is a CALI podcast. CALI lessons in general can be accessed at <http://www.cali.org/>. To obtain a password to register and use CALI, contact a reference librarian.
- Scott Burnham, [Tips for Multiple Choice Exams in Law School \(podcast\)](#).
  - This is a CALI podcast. CALI lessons in general can be accessed at <http://www.cali.org/>. To obtain a password to register and use CALI, contact a reference librarian.
- Anne Coughlin, Prof. Anne Coughlin on Exam Do's and Don'ts, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E1Xwxqikec&feature=related>.
- John Delaney, How To Do Your Best on Law School Exams Part I, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hs0QJRCYn-4>.
- John Delaney, How To Do Your Best on Law School Exams Part II, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukjNq6NvGHg&feature=related>.
- Ronald Eades, John Farago & Patrick Wiseman, [Exam Taking Skills, Outlines, and Advice for Law Students: Panel 1 \(podcast\)](#).
  - This is a CALI podcast. CALI lessons in general can be accessed at <http://www.cali.org/>. To obtain a password to register and use CALI, contact a reference librarian.
- Jennifer Martin, [Top 10 Tips for Successfully Writing a Law School Essay \(podcast\)](#).
  - This is a CALI podcast. CALI lessons in general can be accessed at <http://www.cali.org/>. To obtain a password to register and use CALI, contact a reference librarian.
- David Steinberg, Exam Advice for Law Students, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8qcpOeTNlw&feature=related>.
- David Steinberg, Most Common Law School Exam Mistakes, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs67EIGPeNw&feature=related>.
- Daryl Wilson, [Exam Taking Skills, Outlines, and Advice for Law Students: Panel 3 \(podcast\)](#).
  - This is a CALI lesson. CALI lessons in general can be accessed at <http://www.cali.org/>. To obtain a password to register and use CALI, contact a reference librarian.

## Websites

- Vikram David Amar, Tips for Students Taking Law School Exams: Why Students Tend Not to Be Able To Demonstrate the Full Extent of Their Knowledge, and How They Might Do Better (Dec. 08, 2006), <http://writ.news.findlaw.com/amar/20061208.html> .
- Chicago Kent College of Law Academic Support Program, Do's and Don'ts of Exam Preparation, <http://www.kentlaw.edu/academics/asp/resources/DosDontsExamPrep.pdf>.
- Chicago Kent College of Law Academic Support Program, Do's and Don'ts of Exam Taking, <http://www.kentlaw.edu/academics/asp/resources/DosDontsExamTaking.pdf>.

- Elizabeth Garrett, How to Approach and Take a Law School Examination, <http://www.law.harvard.edu/current/student-services/how-to-approach-and-take-a-law-school-exam.pdf>.
- Barbara Glesner Fines, [Exam Preparation Strategies](#)
- John H. Langbien, [Writing Law Examinations](#)
- Rogelio Lasso, Taking Multiple Choice Exams, <http://www1.law.umkc.edu/Students/BarExamInfo/Taking%20Multiple%20Choice%20Exams1.pdf>.
- Carol Nygren, [Using Professors' Old Exams To Prepare](#)
- Carol Nygren, [Confronting Your Final Exam - Torts](#)
- Saint Louis University School of Law Academic Support, Answering Exam Essays, <http://slu.edu/x48877.xml>.
- Saint Louis University School of Law Academic Support, Golden Rules of Exam Taking, <http://slu.edu/x48879.xml>.
- Saint Louis University School of Law Academic Support, Seven C's of Exam Success, <http://slu.edu/x48880.xml>.

## Exams Available in the Library

We have a limited number of old / practice exams available in the Law Library. Some exams are available on reserve (check under the professor's name). Also check in the Stacks at KF 292 C486. Professors may also make exam materials available on their course website, particularly as time draws closer to the exam period. Be aware that the Law Library holds only those exams that the professors have given to us and many professors choose not to release their exams.

## Other Collections of Exams

Several law schools and libraries maintain available collections of their school's exams. Note that only selected exams may be available without a username and password from that institution:

- University of Kentucky, <http://www.law.uky.edu/index.php?pid=166>.
- Widener Law, <http://law.widener.edu/LawLibrary/Services/ExamArchive.aspx>
- Old Exam Archive – Adjunct Prof. Craig Smith of Santa Barbara/Ventura Colleges of Law, <http://www.west.net/~smith/exams.htm>
- Civil Procedure Exam – Prof. Maranville of University of Washington: <http://courses.washington.edu/civpro04/exams.shtml>

## ***Study Aids***

### **Outlines**

LexisNexis Area of Law Outlines,

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/lawschool/study/outlines/default.asp>.

Outlines from the Black Letter series (Constitutional Law, Contracts, Civil Procedure, Criminal Law, Property, Torts),

<http://lawschool.westlaw.com/shared/marketinfodisplay.asp?code=MI&id=352>.

### **Examples & Explanations Series**

[List of Examples & Explanations](#)

Examples & Explanations is a series published by Aspen that provides you with explanations and analysis for a topic and then gives examples to help you fully understand the analysis. A series of problems at the end of each section or chapter assist you in testing your understanding.

Answers are provided for these problems. Most of the current Examples & Explanations series are on Reserve and can be checked out for 2-hours use in the Library. You can see what Examples & Explanations the Law Library owns by doing a series title search in UCLID.

### **Understanding Series**

[List of Understanding books](#)

The Understanding series is published by LexisNexis and provides an overview and analysis of legal subjects. It provides less analysis than a hornbook but more than a nutshell. Most of the current Understanding series are on Reserve and can be checked out for 2-hours use in the Library. You can see what Understanding titles the Law Library owns by doing a series title search in UCLID.

### **Hornbooks**

[List of Hornbooks](#)

Think of a hornbook as a mini-treatise for law students. It provides a more in-depth analysis of law school subjects than a Nutshell or one of the Understanding series. They will typically cover cases used in law school classes. Most of the current hornbooks are on Reserve and can be checked out for 2-hours use in the Library. You can see what hornbooks the Law Library owns by doing a series title search in UCLID.

### **Nutshell Series**

[List of Nutshells](#)

Nutshells are little paperback books that give a concise overview of an area of law. Most of the current nutshells are on Reserve and can be checked out for 2-hours use in the Library. You can see what nutshells the Law Library owns by doing a series title search in UCLID.

### **Concepts and Insights Series**

#### [List of Concepts and Insights titles](#)

This paperback series, published by West, provides an overview of an area of law. It is similar to the Understanding series. Most of the current Concepts and Insights titles are on Reserve and can be checked out for 2-hours use in the Library. You can see what titles the Law Library owns by doing a series title search in UCLID.

## ***CALI***

CALI stands for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction. CALI.org is a non-profit consortium of law schools – of which UC Law is a member – that develops and distributes legal education lessons to the consortium members. CALI courses are available online at <http://www.cali.org> or they can be accessed via a DVD. CALI DVDs are distributed to every incoming 1L student. They are also available at the Circulation Desk. CALI DVDs are Apple and Windows compatible.

You will need to set up a password to use CALI online. Go to <http://www.cali.org> and look at the information box on the right side of the screen. Click on “Not a registered user yet?” You will be asked to enter UC Law’s authorization code. You can get this code from any reference librarian or at the Circulation Desk. Once you have entered the authorization code, you can set up your password. Here is a link to a CALI-produced video that walks you through the registration process: <http://www.cali.org/faq/7886>.