To: Students in LAWR Sections U3 and U4  
From: Professor Stephen Paskey  
Date: July 31, 2015  
Re: Books and Short Assignment for Legal Analysis, Writing, & Research

I’m looking forward to our first class session on August 25. At least one week before class begins, you’ll receive the first week’s assignments by email. For now, I’m writing with a list of books you’ll need, and one very short non-legal writing assignment.

**Books for Fall 2015 and Spring 2016**

During the first three weeks of class, we’ll work with the following two books:


You will also need the following two books:


Because we’ll use these every book other than the first one during both the fall and spring, you shouldn’t rent them for one semester. A used copy is fine, as long as you have the correct edition. (Be sure the ISBN numbers match.)
I’ve had problems with the UB bookstore, so I haven’t ordered these books from them. **You must purchase the books online.** They’re available from multiple sources, including Amazon.com (with free 2-day shipping for students) and the publisher.

In addition, you will be required to buy a subscription to Core Grammar for Lawyers, an on-line learning tool. You’ll receive additional details on Core Grammar by email before orientation begins, including a discount code.

**Short Non-Legal Writing Assignment**

Before the first day of class, I’d like you to write a very short piece on the following topic:

*The hardest thing I ever learned to do.*

Be creative: you can write about absolutely anything – learning can happen anywhere, and the form doesn’t matter. Please keep your piece to no more than 500 words or so, but beyond that there’s no required format: if you’d rather write this as a poem or a song than an essay, do it. The important thing is the spirit of it: focus on the challenges you faced, and how you overcame those challenges.

Please write your assignment in a Microsoft Word file and send it me via email **before** Monday, August 24 at the following address:

sjpaskey@buffalo.edu

**Final Thoughts**

Other than that, relax and enjoy the rest of your summer. If you want to read something, forget about reading legal stuff: you’ll read enough bad legal writing from judges after your classes start.

Instead, read *anything* that’s well written, and think about why, as a reader, you like the writing. Even a well-written magazine is helpful. A few suggestions: The New Yorker; The Atlantic; Fast Company; Entrepreneur; Esquire; and Vanity Fair.

If you have any questions, you can reach me by email. Take care, and I’ll see you in class.

Professor Stephen Paskey