

Beach Reads For Your BigLaw Vacation

By **Andrew Strickler**

Law360, New York (July 01, 2014, 7:46 PM ET) -- With the Fourth of July holiday upon us, 'tis the season for cutting out of the office early and kicking back with a good book.

Sure, you could pick up John Grisham's "Sycamore Row," a sequel to his wildly popular first novel, "A Time to Kill." But why not put your time off to better use?

In the law profession's spirit of intellectualism and BigLaw overwork, Law360 suggests some continuing legal education with a summer reading list that includes rich nonfiction, a treatise on the profession's future, a history of an influential federal court and other good-for-you selections.

'John Brown's Spy: The Adventurous Life and Tragic Confession of John E. Cook,' by Steven Lubet

History buffs and legal minds alike will find a lot to enjoy in "John Brown's Spy," the story of John Cook, the radical abolitionist John Brown trusted with his plans to capture the Harpers Ferry Armory in 1859. By the time of his death by execution, Cook had studied law, written poetry, taken hostages, womanized and become a turncoat spy with a bounty on his head.

Steven Harper, author of "The Lawyer Bubble: A Profession in Crisis," called Northwestern University law professor Steven Lubet a "gifted writer" employing "riveting nonlegalese."

"The book is a reminder that beyond the most famous names in history are equally compelling stories of others who have gone unnoticed," Harper said.

"John Brown's Spy: The Adventurous Life and Tragic Confession of John E. Cook" (Yale University Press, 2012) is available in hardback and electronic versions.

'Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future,' by Richard Susskind

Need another reminder that the legal profession is in flux? Look no further than "Tomorrow's Lawyers," legal futurist Richard Susskind's latest take on where we're all headed.

Building on his previous books, including 2010's "The End of Lawyers?: Rethinking the Nature of Legal Services," Susskind explores disruptive trends of the post-financial-crisis era and beyond, building a road map to everything from virtual courts to global Internet-based firms to the job prospects for the next generation of lawyers.

Allen & Overy LLP worldwide senior partner David Morley said Susskind's vision "will thrill or alarm you."

"It's inspiring for those willing to adapt to — and seize the opportunities presented by — a fast-changing legal industry," he said. "A bad dream for those who are not."

"Tomorrow's Lawyers: An Introduction to Your Future" (Oxford University Press, 2013) is available in paperback and electronic versions.

'The Innocent Killer: A True Story of a Wrongful Conviction and its Astonishing Aftermath,' by Michael Griesbach

The American Bar Association's book publisher makes its first foray into the true crime genre with "The Innocent Killer," the story of Steven Avery, a man who spent 18 years behind bars for a brutal rape he didn't commit before he was exonerated through DNA testing.

However, in 2007, Avery was convicted for the brutal murder of freelance photographer Teresa Halbach and sent back to prison for life.

Innocence Project co-founder Barry Scheck wrote in his review that author and Wisconsin prosecutor Michael Griesbach "raises all the right questions and brings us closer to the truth" about the link between Avery's wrongful conviction and his subsequent crime.

"The Innocent Killer: A True Story of a Wrongful Conviction and its Astonishing Aftermath" (ABA Book Publishing, 2014) is available now for preorder; a paperback version is set for a July release.

'Typography for Lawyers: Essential Tools for Polished & Persuasive Documents,' by Matthew Butterick

Look for this one in the "things you don't know but should" section of your legal library. "Typography for Lawyers" makes a persuasive case that good typography is part of good lawyering, pointing out the power of a properly deployed em-dash.

"Not really a beach read, but a great guide to making legal documents more readable," said Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP partner Kevin Underhill, legal humor blogger and author of "The Emergency Sasquatch Ordinance: And Other Real Laws That Human Beings Actually Dreamed Up."

Font designer and attorney Matthew Butterick helpfully includes before-and-after comparisons of common legal documents and a keyboard reference list.

"Typography for Lawyers: Essential Tools for Polished & Persuasive Documents" (Jones McClure Publishing, 2010) is available in paperback and electronic versions.

'The Mother Court: Tales of Cases That Mattered in America's Greatest Trial Court,' by James D. Zirin

"The Mother Court" is a lively homage to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and an insider's history of some of the most notable cases to pass through the influential court, from the criminal trial of Alger Hiss to the federal government's obscenity suit against the makers of porn film "Deep Throat."

U.S. Circuit Judge Pierre N. Leval of the Second Circuit said author, television host and lawyer James D. Zirin's book is "peppered with the perceptive observations of a wise, experienced litigator — like flakes of chili and oregano on the choicest New York pizza."

"The Mother Court: Tales of Cases That Mattered in America's Greatest Trial Court" (American Bar Association, 2014) is available in hardback and electronic editions.

'Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age,' by Kevin Boyle

In 1925, a young doctor, Ossian Sweet, moved with his family to an all-white neighborhood of Detroit, triggering a confrontation between an incensed mob determined to drive the family out and a group of Sweet's friends and defenders.

With the northern migration of African-Americans and the boom years for Detroit as the backdrop, "Arc of Justice" explores the shooting death of a white man at the Sweet home, a death that led to a sensational murder trial in which Clarence Darrow defended the Sweet family and others.

"Arc of Justice" won the 2004 National Book Award for Nonfiction, among other accolades, and delivers as a legally rich chapter of the civil right movement.

"Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age" (Henry Holt and Co., 2004) is available in hardback, paperback, electronic and audiobook versions.

'Redeeming the Dream: The Case for Marriage Equality,' by David Boies and Theodore B. Olson

In "Redeeming the Dream," David Boies and Theodore B. Olson, who litigated against each other in *Bush v. Gore*, tell the story of the historic U.S. Supreme Court decisions that overturned California's Proposition 8 and nixed a key provision of the Defense of Marriage Act.

While some reviewers have criticized the superlawyer duo for giving short shrift to other litigators and advocates who toiled to set the stage for the decisions, the book still serves as a detailed record of the legal foundations of the important 2013 Supreme Court civil rights rulings.

"Redeeming the Dream: The Case for Marriage Equality," (Viking Adult, 2014) is available in hardcover, electronic and audiobook versions.

'The Great Smartphone War,' by Kurt Eichenwald

Surely someone, somewhere, is already hard at work on a book about the epic patent battle between Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. over their rival smartphone technology. But until that hits the shelves, lawyers looking for a primer on what sparked the ongoing — and very expensive — lawsuits over similarities between iPhone and Samsung Galaxy features have "The Great Smartphone War."

The Vanity Fair article by investigative reporter and "The Informant: A True Story" author Kurt Eichenwald explores the dispute within the context of the companies' histories and includes Steve Jobs' reaction to the first Galaxy release and the ensuing legal histrionics.

"The Great Smartphone War," (Vanity Fair, June 2014 edition) is available without a subscription on the Vanity Fair website.

--Editing by Katherine Rautenberg and Emily Kokoll.

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