

Now that the study of film has entered the law school curriculum, perhaps it's time to ask exactly what it adds to the student's educational experience that the traditional curriculum lacks. The study of lawyer films, even unrealistic lawyer films, therefore can provide an important supplement to the curriculum by teaching some important lessons. The most important lesson is that justice counts. The very quantity of 'law' films demonstrates that the human appetite for justice is strong. John Devnir

What we would like you to do with your time at home, and since we cannot physically bring you a trial experience, is supplement the classroom instruction you have received by viewing examples of legal cases.

Step One:

Choose three (3) legal movies. Below are resources you can use to find your movies.

Law Related Movies Organized by Law Subject

<http://www.legalresearchandwriting.ca/movies/subject.htm>

25 Greatest Law Movies

https://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/the_25_greatest_legal_movies

Best Law Movies for Law Students

<https://www.enjuris.com/students/movies-for-law-students.html>

6 Most Realistic Courtroom Dramas According To Lawyers

<https://www.simplemost.com/most-realistic-courtroom-dramas-according-to-lawyers/>

11 Movies Every Law Student Should See

<https://www.bustle.com/articles/147595-11-movies-every-law-student-should-see>

Excellent recent legal movies

On the Basis of Sex

On the Basis of Sex is a biopic based on the life of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The movie focuses on the early part of her life, emphasizing her law school years and her first gender discrimination lawsuit. The movie, which writer Daniel Stiepleman explains is about “a young lawyer who is trying to find her voice,” is perfect for law students.

Loving

The 2016 film, directed by Jeff Nichols, is based on the lives of Richard and Mildred Loving, whose arrest for interracial marriage in Virginia in 1958 led to a legal battle that made its way to the Supreme Court of the United States. The movie, which garnered rave reviews, will provide a satisfying background for when you inevitably read *Loving v. Virginia* in your constitutional law class.

Marshall

Starring Chadwick Boseman and Kate Hudson, *Marshall* is based on an early trial in the long career of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The movie follows Thurgood as he travels to Connecticut to defend a black chauffeur charged with sexual assault and attempted murder of his white employer. The case led to Marshall's creation of the NAACP legal defense fund.

Michael Clayton

While most legal films focus on the heroics of a lawyer's pursuit of justice, *Michael Clayton* takes a slightly different approach by focusing on a fixer brought in by a law firm to clean things up after a lawyer has a breakdown while representing a chemical company he knows is guilty.

For Fun

My Cousin Vinny

It might seem like a ludicrous claim but *My Cousin Vinny* is actually considered one of the most accurate law movies ever made. No joke, lawyer and judges alike have praised this film despite the fact that it was overall a comedy that took a few stabs at the courtroom in the manner of how it was made. But overall those that watched and have anything to do with the law inside the courtroom thought that the movie depicted everything it should have and went above and beyond when it came to dealing with a hostile judge.

Step Two:

For each of the three (3) movies please answer the following . . .

NAME OF FILM:

TYPE OF LAW BEING ADDRESSED (Criminal, Civil – Torts, Class Action, Family, Contracts, Property Disputes):

LEGAL QUESTION (What is the case about? and What is the specific legal questions being decided?)

SETTING (time period, situation/event, location):

MAJOR CHARACTERS (include name, brief description):

KEY SCENES or TURNING POINTS /DIALOGUE (List specific and noteworthy scenes and dialogue)

RESULT (How was the case decided? What rule of law was applied or what was the reasoning of the judge or jurors?)

Step Three:

Conti –Submit to contijulie23@gmail.com when you complete all 3 reviews or you can hold on to your work for submission on paper when we return. Please be sure you are on the Street Law remind for Mrs. Conti Text to 81010 code @k78gk9

London – This assignment is also posted in TEAMS. This handout will appear under “Reference Material”. Under “Student Work”, you will attach your three (3) reviews by, as always, clicking “+ add work”. You may wait and submit all as one document, or submit a separate doc for each movie review. If you are having difficulty accessing TEAMS, you may hold on to your work for submission on paper.