



Due Process

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What do these things have in common?

No. 1

My Cousin Vinny. Legally Blonde
The Verdict

No. 2

Any book by John Grisham.
Courtroom scenes by Michael
Connelly.

No. 3

Anything Perry Mason.



They get the law criminally wrong.



For the Record

My name is Melanie MacDonald and I am here today representing all the myriad lawyers, judges, clerks and anyone associated with the legal system.

To prevent them from banging their heads against the wall.

Do your research.



Areas of Discussion



Jurisdiction

Where the crime happens determines who has the authority to investigation, prosecute, and adjudicate the case.

Nomenclature

What to call the parties, the investigators, the lock-up, and the level of crime

Roles of the Parties/Ethics

What is the role of the police, the prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, juries, etc.? What are the ethical restraints?

Courtroom Procedure

No trial by ambush. Discovery and named witnesses. Arraignment. Hearings. Motions to dismiss. Jury Trial. Sentencing. Appeal.

The Crime.

Key takeaways



Know where the crime takes place.

Know what to call the crime and parties

Know the roles of the parties.

Know Courtroom Procedure.





Where to get answers

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|--------------|------------------------------------|
| No. 1 | Read the statutes |
| No. 2 | Read the rules of ethical behavior |
| No. 3 | Watch courtroom procedures. |

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is seen from behind, looking out over a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, and the city buildings are silhouetted against the light. The woman is standing on a rooftop or balcony with a metal railing.

Call to action

Write a great, realistic story.



Thank you

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