

# MIAMI LAW

## HOPE Public Interest Resource Center

### SOCIAL JUSTICE MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

#### PUBLIC INTEREST LEADERSHIP BOARD

THIS LIST OF RESOURCES HAS BEEN COMPILED BY THE PUBLIC INTEREST LEADERSHIP BOARD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF LAW. THESE ARE RECOMMENDATIONS DESIGNED TO ENGAGE AND PROMOTE AWARENESS.

TO SUBMIT A RECOMMENDATION, OR CONNECT WITH THE PILB, PLEASE EMAIL: [UMHOPE@LAW.MIAMI.EDU](mailto:UMHOPE@LAW.MIAMI.EDU).

#### MOVIES & DOCUMENTARIES

- GIDEON'S ARMY
  - "If you're trying to rescue people from hell, you have to go to hell to do it, right?" A look at the foot soldiers that choose sacrifice to protect liberty: future public defenders. This HBO documentary is a must see.
  
- THE LOVING STORY
  - This award-winning HBO documentary tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, the interracial couple whose landmark Supreme Court case, *Loving v. Virginia*, changed history.
  
- WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE
  - One year after Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans, director Spike Lee presents a four-hour, four-part chronicle recounting, through words and images, one of our country's most profound natural disasters. In addition to revisiting the hours leading up to the arrival of Katrina, a Category 5 hurricane before it hit the coast of Louisiana, *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts* tells the personal stories of those who lived to tell about it, at the same time exploring the underbelly of a nation where the divide along race and class lines has never been more pronounced.
  
- PARADISE LOST TRILOGY
  - PARADISE LOST investigates the 1993 murder of three eight-year-old boys and the three teenagers accused of killing them as part of a Satanic ritual. From real-life courtroom drama and clandestine jailhouse interviews to behind-the-scenes strategy meetings and intimate moments with grief-stricken families, the HBO documentary captures the events as they unfolded. REVELATIONS delves deeply

into the shocking aftermath of the trials, updating the story seven years after the murders. PURGATORY picks up the story and reexamines the horrifying crime with fresh insights that only the passage of time can provide. Facts are reexamined, new evidence is revealed and new suspects are scrutinized. Together, these films tear the lid off a notorious murder case and create a portrait of the American justice system that is at turns terrifying, heartbreaking and mesmerizing, ultimately demonstrating the power of cinema to effect social change.

- THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE

- This film from award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns tells the story of the five black and Latino teenagers from Harlem who were wrongly convicted of raping a white woman in New York City's Central Park in 1989. The film chronicles the Central Park Jogger case, for the first time from the perspective of these five teenagers whose lives were upended by this miscarriage of justice.

- FRUITVALE STATION

- Winner of both the Grand Jury Prize for dramatic feature and the Audience Award for U.S. dramatic film at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, FRUITVALE STATION follows the true story of Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old Bay Area resident shot by BART officers in cold blood at the Fruitvale subway stop on New Year's Day 2009. Oscar's life and tragic death would shake the Bay Area – and the entire nation – to its very core.

- THE TIMES OF HARVEY MILK

- A true twentieth-century trailblazer, Harvey Milk was an outspoken human rights activist and the first openly gay U.S. politician elected to public office; even after his assassination, in 1978, he continues to inspire disenfranchised people around the world. The Oscar-winning *The Times of Harvey Milk*, was, like its subject, groundbreaking. One of the first feature documentaries to address gay life in America, it's a work of advocacy itself, bringing Milk's message of hope and equality to a wider audience.

- EYES ON THE PRIZE: AMERICA'S CIVIL RIGHTS YEARS

- *Eyes on the Prize* tells the definitive story of the civil rights era from the point of view of the ordinary men and women whose extraordinary actions launched a movement that changed the fabric of American life, and embodied a struggle whose reverberations continue to be felt today. Winner of numerous awards, *Eyes on the Prize* is the most critically acclaimed documentary on civil rights in America.

## BOOKS

- LETTER FROM BIRMINGHAM JAIL | MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
  - Dr. King's defense of civil disobedience. A key text of the civil rights movement.
- TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD | HARPER LEE
  - "Real courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." An American classic that every lawyer should read.
- THIS TOWN | MARK LEIBOVICH
  - For those headed to the District upon graduation, Leibovich's *This Town* is a hilariously disturbing Beltway insider tell-all.
- DIPLOMACY | HENRY KISSINGER
  - In this seminal work on the art of diplomacy and the American approach to foreign affairs, former National Security Advisor and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger synthesizes modern diplomatic history, gives play-by-play accounts of his negotiations with world leaders, and offers his own advice on how to handle Russia, China, and the rest of the world. Interested in international law, foreign policy, political history, or improving your negotiation skills? Read this.
- SIMPLE JUSTICE: THE HISTORY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION AND BLACK AMERICA'S STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY | RICHARD KLUGER
  - "One of the most important books published in our American times. . . . A major accomplishment." —*Philadelphia Inquirer*. "Extraordinary. . . . An outstanding piece of legal and social history." —*Washington Post*. "A thought-provoking work that should become part of the standard literature on race relations." —*New York Times Book Review*. "An extraordinary research effort, and a major contribution to our understanding of the Supreme Court." —*Harvard Law Review*. Need I say more?
- THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS | MICHELLE ALEXANDER
  - A call to action for all those concerned with racial justice. Heralded as an important tool for anyone concerned with understanding and dismantling the still ever-present threat of racism.
- THE COURAGE OF THEIR CONVICTIONS: SIXTEEN AMERICANS WHO FOUGHT THEIR WAY TO THE SUPREME COURT | PETER IRONS
  - Describes the uphill battle fought by various Americans who fought to assert their basic constitutional rights. Reminds lawyers why due process is worth defending and protecting.
- REPRESENTING THE RACE: THE CREATION OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER | KENNETH MACK
  - A vivid account of those famous and forgotten lawyers who brought down Jim Crow.
- HOW TO CHANGE THE WORLD: SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS AND THE POWER OF NEW IDEAS | DAVID BORNSTEIN
  - Profiles men and women from around the world who have found innovative solutions to a wide variety of social and economic problems.
- FORCES FOR GOOD: THE SIX PRACTICES OF HIGH-IMPACT NONPROFITS | HEATHER MCLEOD GRANT
  - A guide to non-profit management.
- THE LIFE OF THE LAW: THE PEOPLE AND CASES THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR SOCIETY | ALFRED KNIGHT

- This well-researched and readable legal history casts a greater understanding of the law and tradition of the American Legal system. A look at twenty-one landmark cases that have contributed to the development of American jurisprudence.
- WALKING WITH THE WIND | JOHN LEWIS
  - As Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), Congressman John Lewis was at the epicenter of the civil rights movement. Arrested more than forty times, he was one of its youngest and most courageous leaders. Writing with charm, warmth, and honesty, Lewis moves from the Nashville lunch counter sit-ins as he reflects on the era to the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, where he led more than five hundred marchers on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." Though there have been exceptional books on the movement, Lewis's profound personal story is "destined to become a classic in civil rights literature" (*Los Angeles Times*).
- LONG WALK TO FREEDOM | NELSON MANDELA
  - Nelson Mandela's moving autobiography in which he tells the extraordinary story of his life in South Africa from his birth in 1918 to his inauguration as president in 1994. Much of the book was written secretly while he was imprisoned for 27 years. This book inspired the recent movie *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*.
- MURDER AT THE SUPREME COURT: LETHAL CRIMES & LANDMARK CASES | TIM O'BRIEN AND MARTIN CLANCY
  - This book not only pulls back the curtain of secrecy that surrounds Supreme Court deliberations but also reveals the crucial links between landmark capital-punishment cases and the lethal crimes at their root. The authors, who are veteran journalists, take readers to crime scenes, holding cells, jury rooms, autopsy suites, and execution chambers to provide true-life reporting on vicious criminals and the haphazard judicial system that punishes them. The cases reported are truly "the cases that made the law." They have defined the parameters that judges must follow for a death sentence to stand up on appeal.
- HALF THE SKY: TURNING OPPRESSION INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN WORLDWIDE | NICHOLAS KRISTOF
  - A passionate call to arms against one of our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.

REVIEWS ENHANCED WITH INFORMATION FROM AMAZON.COM.

## Public Interest Podcast Recommendations

*This American Life* is a weekly public radio show broadcast on 500+ stations to 2.2 million listeners. Each episode has a theme and features a variety of stories on that theme. Episodes are available at [www.thisamericanlife.org](http://www.thisamericanlife.org), iTunes, and apps for iPhone/Android.

[547: Cops See It Differently, Part One](#) — There are so many cops who look at the killing of Eric Garner or Mike Brown and say race didn't play a factor. And there are tons of black people who say that's insane. There's a division between people who are distrustful of the police — even scared of them — and people who see cops as a force for good. These next two weeks, we have stories of people living on both sides of that divide, and people trying to bridge it.

[536: The Secret Recordings of Carmen Segarra](#) — An unprecedented look inside one of the most powerful, secretive institutions in the country. The NY Federal Reserve is supposed to monitor big banks. But when Carmen Segarra was hired, what she witnessed inside the Fed was so alarming that she got a tiny recorder and started secretly taping.

[507: Confessions](#) — Two crime scenes, two murders. One crime is solved, the other case went cold. Both raise the question: What should a person suspected of murder say?

[505: Use Only As Directed](#) — One of the country's most popular over-the-counter painkillers — acetaminophen, the active ingredient in Tylenol — also kills the most people, according to data from the federal government. Over 150 Americans die each year on average after accidentally taking too much. And it requires a lot less to endanger you than you may know.

[461: Take The Money And Run For Office](#) — For anyone who has ever heard the term "Washington insider" and felt outside — we are with you. So this week, we go inside the rooms where the deals get made, to the actual moment that the checks change hands — and we ask the people writing and receiving the checks what, exactly, is the money buying?

[430: Very Tough Love](#) — A drug court program that we believe is run differently from every other drug court in the country, doing some things that are contrary to the very philosophy of drug court. The result? People with offenses that would get minimal or no sentences elsewhere sometimes end up in the system five to ten years.

[356: The Prosecutor](#) — A lawyer in the Justice Department gets the professional opportunity of a lifetime: To be the lead prosecutor in one of the first high-profile terrorist cases since 9/11. But things go badly for him.

*RadioLab* is a radio program broadcast on public radio stations throughout the United States. The show is “about curiosity...where sound illuminates ideas, and the boundaries blur between science, philosophy, and human experience.”

[Galapagos](#) — The strange story of a small group of islands that raise a big question: is it inevitable that even our most sacred natural landscapes will eventually get swallowed up by humans? And just how far are we willing to go to stop that from happening? 179 years after the

islands informed Darwin's theory of evolution, the Galapagos are undergoing rapid changes that continue to pose — and possibly answer — critical questions about the fragility and resilience of life on Earth.

[Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl](#) — The Supreme Court case *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* is a legal battle that has entangled a biological father, a heart-broken couple, and the tragic history of Native American children taken from their families. Because *Adoptive Couple v. Baby Girl* challenges parts of the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, this case puts one little girl at the center of a storm of legal intricacies, Native American tribal culture, and heart-wrenching personal stakes.

[Grumpy Old Terrorists](#) — Four men were caught on tape trying to buy explosives to blow up federal office buildings in Atlanta, Georgia. The men, all over 60 years old, were caught after meeting at neighborhood restaurants like Waffle House and Shoney's. How seriously should the government take these threats? Were these men would-be terrorists, or just trash-talking senior citizens?

*Freakonomics* is based upon the *Freakonomics* series of books by Steven Levitt and Stephen Dubner. The podcast encourages listeners to think more creatively, rationally, and productively about the world in which they live.

[The Perfect Crime](#) — What's "the perfect crime"? It turns out that if you are driving your car and run over a pedestrian, there's a good chance — especially if you live in New York — that you'll barely be punished. Why? And who do the roads belong to anyway?

[Fighting Poverty With Actual Evidence](#) — This podcast explores a simple, not-so-simple question: what's the best way to help poor people stop being poor?

*TED* is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks.

["We need to talk about an injustice"](#) — Bryan Stevenson, a public-interest lawyer, shares some hard truths about America's justice system, starting with a massive imbalance along racial lines: a third of the country's black male population has been incarcerated at some point in their lives.

["Lessons from death row inmates"](#) — David R. Dow, death penalty lawyer, realized that a surprising number of death row inmates had similar biographies. He proposes a bold plan, one that prevents murders in the first place.