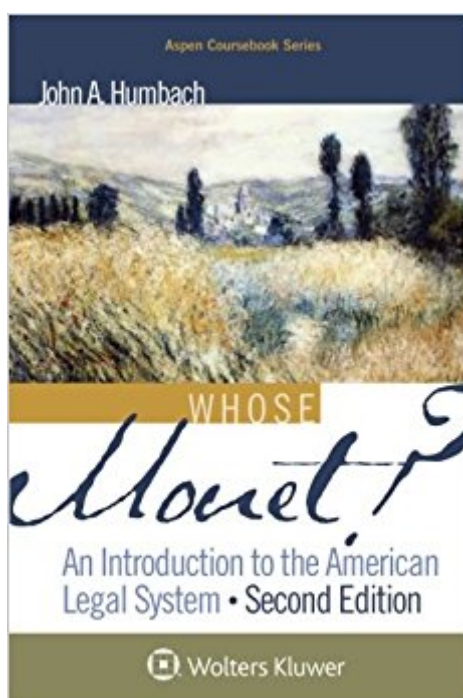


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# Whose Monet: An Introduction To The American Legal System (Aspen Coursebook)



## Synopsis

This extraordinary paperback provides a highly accessible and appealing orientation to the American legal system and presents basic concepts of civil litigation to first-year law students. *Whose Monet? An Introduction to the American Legal System* focuses on a lengthy dispute over the ownership of a painting as a vehicle for introducing students to the basic law school tasks of reading analytically, understanding legal materials, and working with the common law. The author and his colleagues have used these materials successfully in their classrooms for many years, ensuring their teachability and effectiveness: *Whose Monet?* can be used as primary course material in orientation courses or seminars, as well as collateral reading for in-semester Legal Process or Civil Procedure courses. The organization is logical and straightforward and the accessible writing style--lucid, descriptive, and conversational--is ideal for incoming students. The major events in a lawsuit are considered, and the text sheds light on how the law is applied in a civil dispute, introducing common law and statutory law and the various courts and their interrelationship (trial/appellate, state/federal). The author draws on judicial opinions, litigation papers, transcripts, and selections from commentators and various jurisprudential sources, thereby exposing the first-year student to as broad a spectrum of materials as possible. Telling the story of a real lawsuit (*DeWeerth v. Baldinger*)--from client intake through trial and various appeals--draws students into the legal process by means of an engaging narrative and makes for a truly enjoying teaching experience for professors. The lawyer's role is examined in both its functional and moral dimensions: What do lawyers do? What does society legitimately expect lawyers to do? This book is suitable for both classroom and stand-alone assigned reading.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I came across this book purely by chance and found it as engaging as any book that I have read, fiction or non-fiction, in recent memory. I know that it was written with first year law students in mind. I don't think I would have been able to appreciate the wonderful nuances in the law (so flawlessly and fascinatingly captured in this book) if it had been assigned reading back then, particularly when so many other courses were competing for slices of my brain. However, I can imagine an entire college course based on this one book (not merely assigned reading) as something I would have highly enjoyed and found extremely valuable. From my perspective now, I recommend this book to attorneys and non-attorney executives who, while perhaps not specializing in civil litigation, frequently encounter it. As general counsel to a record label/motion picture producer/Broadway show financier, I have worked closely with outside counsel from the moment the threat of litigation appeared on the horizon through to the final appeal. Although I've been doing this quite awhile, I managed to learn (or re-think) something on every page of this book. For anyone who loves The Law, *Whose Monet* is a goldmine!

Well written book, useful to 1st year students, the book is interesting but it repeats itself quite a bit and it nothing like a law school book. It's very easy nothing like a law school textbook

Great book for 1Ls!

The first sentence of chapter 1 alone got me hooked!

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