

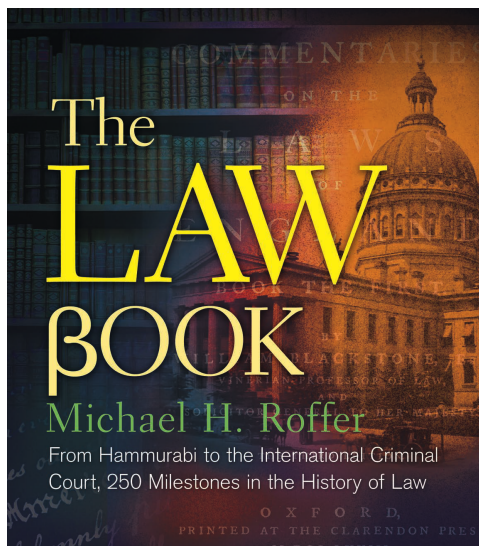
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The Law Book

From Hammurabi to the International Criminal Court,
250 Milestones in the History of Law

By Michael H. Roffer



Join author Michael H. Roffer as he explores 250 of the most fundamental, far-reaching, and often-controversial cases, laws, and trials that have profoundly changed our world—for good or bad. Offering authoritative context to ancient documents as well as today's hot-button issues, *The Law Book* presents a comprehensive look at the rules by which we live our lives. It covers such diverse topics as the Code of Hammurabi, the Ten Commandments, the Trial of Socrates, the Bill of Rights, women's suffrage, the insanity defense, and more. Roffer takes us around the globe to ancient Rome and medieval England before transporting us forward to contemporary accounts that tackle everything from civil rights, surrogacy, and assisted suicide to the 2000 U.S. presidential election, Google Books, and the fight for marriage equality.

Organized chronologically, the entries each consist of a short essay and a stunning full-color image, while the "Notes and Further Reading" section provides resources for more in-depth study. Justice may be blind, but this collection brings the rich history of the law to light.

Michael H. Roffer is associate librarian for reader services and professor of legal research at New York Law School. He earned his JD, magna cum laude, from New York Law School and his master's in library and information science from Rutgers University. A member of the New York Bar since 1984, he served as a law clerk for Senior Judge Roger J. Miner of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and practiced law at a major New York City law firm before joining New York Law School in 2003. Roffer's articles on antitrust, criminal procedure, and employment law have appeared in academic and professional law journals, and he has lectured at continuing legal education programs for attorneys and lectures at continuing professional education programs for law librarians. **He lives in New York City with his wife and two children and is available for interview.**

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Fascinating Facts from *THE LAW BOOK* by Michael H. Roffer

- The oldest surviving written will proves that women could own their own property in Ancient Egyptian society.
- The Code of Hammurabi isn't the oldest surviving law code. The Code of Ur-Nammu predates it by over 300 years.
- The first recorded case of copyright infringement happened in the year 561, involved the Irish monk St. Columba, and resulted in the deaths of 3,000 people.
- The sole purpose of the first English jury was to announce indictments of suspected criminals.
- Church officials burned Joan of Arc at the stake for the heresy of wearing men's clothes.
- The governor of Massachusetts halted the Salem witch trials when his wife came under suspicion.
- Our Bill of Rights borrows heavily from the English Bill of Rights, a century earlier, which followed the Glorious Revolution that helped oust Catholic king James II in favor of his protestant daughter Mary II and her husband, William III.
- Implemented by Tsar Alexander II, Russia's emancipation proclamation preceded President Lincoln's proclamation by two years and liberated about 23 million serfs, a third of the country's population.
- A 1903 Oregon law designed to protect women from overwork in factories formally allowed for gender discrimination in the workplace.
- The Eighteenth Amendment, which instituted Prohibition, remains the only amendment to the Constitution ever to be repealed.
- In 1997, a former KGB officer revealed that he had recruited Julius Rosenberg, who had transmitted secrets to the Soviets. A decade later, Rosenberg's friend, Morton Sobell, admitted their spying activities to the *New York Times*.
- *The Satanic Verses* didn't appear in paperback for more than a decade because Salman Rushdie was trying to mitigate the fatwa that the Ayatollah Khomeini issued against him. That fatwa remains in effect today.
- The coffee in the infamous McDonald's hot coffee case was served at 180°F, and McDonald's had received more than 700 prior reports of coffee-related injuries.

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Sterling Milestones

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