Legal Thrillers

The legal thriller is a sub-genre of thriller and crime fiction in which the major characters are lawyers and their employees. The system of justice itself is always a major part of these works, at times almost functioning as one of the characters. Usually, crusading lawyers become involved in proving their cases to such an extent that they imperil their own interpersonal relationships and frequently, their own lives.

Check for these titles on our Overdrive / Libby and Hoopla apps for an ebook or eaudiobook.

**Sleeping Beauty**
Margolin, Philip
Miles Van Meter is on a book tour that promotes his true crime book that left his twin sister, Casey, in a coma. Miles will discuss the recent developments in his sister’s case, unaware that pieces of this complex puzzle of violence, unknown even to the author, are about to be revealed.

**The Finishing School**
Martinez, Michelle
When two beautiful teenagers from a posh East Side girl’s school suddenly turn up dead under suspicious circumstances, it falls to Melanie Vargas, a savvy federal prosecutor, to do anything possible to get to the truth.

**The Attorney**
Martini, Steve
A child custody battle leads to murder in this mystery, starring lawyer Paul Madriani of San Diego. It happens when a woman demands a share of her parents’ $87 million lottery win, or she will remove her child from their custody.

**The Zero Game**
Meltzer, Brad
Senior staffers to a respected congressman, Matthew Mercer and Harris Sandler become involved in the clandestine Zero Game, but when someone close to them turns up dead, they discover the sinister intent of the “game” and realize that they are intended to become the game’s next victims.

**Presumption of Death**
O’Shaughnessy, Perri
Returning home to Monterey County to put her life in order and move in with Paul van Wagoner, attorney Nina Reilly is called upon in the case of her former assistant’s son, who has been accused of murder in a disturbing arson case.

**Sudden Death**
Rosenfelt, David
When the Giants’ new star running back is accused of murdering a Jets rival, attorney Andy Carpenter works for the athlete’s defense, a task that is complicated by discovery of additional player killings and death threats from a drug mobster.

**Mitigating Circumstances**
Rosenberg, Nancy Taylor
An Assistant D.A. decides to take the law into her own hands after she and her daughter are brutally attacked. Sequel is *Buried Evidence*.

**Courting Trouble**
Scottoline, Lisa
Anne Murphy, a rookie lawyer for a Philadelphia law firm, leaves town for the 4th of July to prepare for a trial, but when she buys a newspaper she finds her photo is plastered all over the front page. And the headline—lawyer murdered—supposedly refers to her. Anne sets out to find her killer, playing dead in order to stay alive.

**A Wrongful Death**
Wilhelm, Kate
Barbara Holloway is forced to play a deadly game of murder, corruption, greed, and betrayal when she becomes the prime suspect in a high-profile kidnapping case involving a young boy, who happens to be the grandson of a wealthy family who mysteriously disappears after coming to her for help.
Death Row
Bernhardt, William
Death Row Attorney Ben Kincaid defends a man accused of a mass murder. When the woman who helps convict him — whom Ben suspects of perjury — disappears dead, only Ben can hunt down a killer determined to cover his tracks.

Breach of Trust
Buffa, Dudley W.
When the case of a young women who fell from a window to her death during a party attended by influential alumnae of Harvard Law School is reopened, attorney Joseph Antonelli takes the case of accused killer James Haviland in a trial that could have profound effects on the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

Judgment Calls
Burke Alafair
A seemingly simple, open-and-shut trial involving a brutal attack on a 13 year old girl draws Deputy DA Samantha Kincaid into a complex and dangerous case that takes her on a dark trail leading to a high-profile death penalty case, a prostitution ring of underage girls, and a potential serial killer.

Missing Witness
Campbell, Gordon
Recent law-school grad Douglas McKenzie takes his first job in Phoenix, passing up an offer from a blue-chip firm for a chance to work with legendary defense attorney Dan Morgan. When the hard drinking, chain-smoking ex-marine asks Doug to help him with a huge murder case, McKenzie knows it will be the trial of his life.

Lincoln Lawyer
Connelly, Michael
Cynical LA attorney Mickey Haller takes on a wealthy client who, he discovers, has a very dark side. The case connects to an earlier client now in prison and tests Mickey’s ethics.

Temporary Sanity
Connors, Rose
After leaving the District Attorney’s office, Marty Nickerson tackles a difficult first case in her defense of a client who shot his son’s presumed killer on television and refuses to enter a plea of insanity, his only available means of defense.

Jury of One
Ellis, David
Shelly Trotter, the daughter of the state governor and a children’s rights advocate, comes to the aid of a seventeen-year-old former client accused of killing a police officer, only to discover that the boy had become caught up in an undercover sting to trap corrupt cops and that he claims to be the son she had given up for private adoption years before.

The Bone Vault
Fairstein, Linda
When a recently deceased body is discovered in an ancient Egyptian sarcophagus during a donor gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Assistant DA Alex Cooper must infiltrate New York’s museum society to catch a killer.

High Crimes
Finder, Joseph
A lawyer learns her husband has been living under a false identity for 13 years when he’s court-martialed for a massacre in an El Salvador village that he claims was the fault of his commanding officer.

Blood Money
Grippando, James
When he agrees to defend a sexy night club waitress and party girl accused of murdering her two-year-old daughter, Miami defense attorney Jack Swyteck embarks on the most dangerous and controversial case of his career.

The Firm
Grisham, John
When Mitch McDeere signed on with Bendini, Lambert & Locke of Memphis, he thought he and his beautiful wife, Abby, were on their way. Mitch McDeere should have remembered what his brother Ray — doing fifteen years in a Tennessee jail — already knew: you never get nothing for nothing.

King of Lies
John Hart
Jackson Workman’s life and legal practice are in shambles. When his father Ezra is murdered, the large fortune he left behind makes Workman not only a grieving son, but, along with his sister, a suspect in his father’s murder. He must fight to save his sister, clear his name, regain his wife’s love, and above all, redeem himself.

Defending Jacob
Landay, William
When his fourteen-year-old son is charged with the murder of a fellow student, assistant DA Andy Barber is torn between loyalty and justice as facts come to light to question how well he knows his own son.

Fatal Flaw
Lashner, William
Late one night, Victor Carl gets a phone call from old law school classmate Guy Forrest who has just found his fiancé murdered. Convinced that Guy is the killer, Victor agrees to represent him, all the while vowing to see justice done — whatever the cost.

The Ophelia Cut
Lescroart, John
Defending an old friend Moses McGuire against wrongful murder charges involving a man who raped his daughter, attorney Dismas Hardy rises his career when the case threatens to expose old secrets involving him and police lieutenant Abe Glitsky.