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# The Golden Age of Legal Publishing in Massachusetts

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## THE GOLDEN AGE OF LEGAL PUBLISHING IN MASSACHUSETTS



Take a walk through the golden age of Massachusetts legal publishing, an age that reflects the development of America from a dependent child of England to an independent nation with its own developing jurisprudence and legal literature.

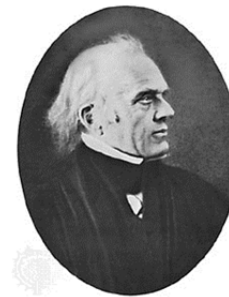
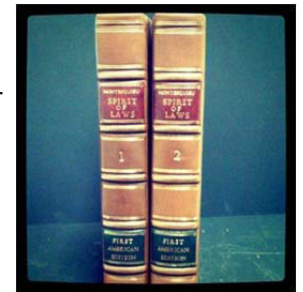
In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, lawyers in colonial America greatly depended on imported law books from England. Domestic law books were scarce, and a variety of English law books, including elegant statutory compilations, large and thorough abridgements, manuals and practice books, were being printed in large numbers and shipped to the American colonies. Colonial lawyers craved these resources, and local printers in the colonies spotted a business opportunity—why not produce domestic versions of the English legal texts? One of the best illustrations of this phenomenon is the spate of justice of the peace manuals based on English examples that proliferated in the American colonies (see photo to the right of *An Abridgment of Burn's Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer*, Boston: Printed for, and sold by Joseph Greenleaf, 1773).



Another example is Robert Bell's 1771 edition of William Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, published and printed by him in Philadelphia. The first post-Revolutionary

war edition of Blackstone came out of our own Commonwealth in 1790, from patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas in Worcester, Massachusetts.

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, specialized law publishers were sprouting up in America, as in England. The progenitors of the famous Boston publisher Little, Brown & Co. were setting up shop downtown and printing legal texts, along with a full program of general publishing. Initially, these publishers relied heavily on producing American editions of English and continental law texts—reprinting Blackstone, Coke, Chitty, Montesquieu (see photo to the right of the 1<sup>st</sup> American edition of his *The Spirit of Laws*, Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, 1802) and Vattel, among others. Often, editors would “Americanize” these European texts by adding annotations to American statutes and case law.



In time, however, a shift occurred, and more and more American jurists produced legal literature that explicitly discussed emerging trends in American law. Supreme Court justice and Harvard law professor Joseph Story is the classic example (see portrait to the left). Story produced many treatises that discussed Roman and civil law, English law and continental law but did it within the larger lens of a developing American jurisprudence. His works were written specifically for American law students and practitioners and went through many editions. They are featured in Exhibit Case VIII.

Massachusetts sat at the center of this moment in publishing history, and Boston, along with Philadelphia and New York, was a seat of the burgeoning industry of American law book publishing. Little, Brown & Co., in particular, was a major force and published all of Justice Story's works after its founding in 1837. The publishing house managed to survive and indeed thrive after the West publishing empire (which took root in the late 1800s) and the Lawyers Cooperative began buying up local and regional publishers. Little, Brown still exists as part of the Hachette Book Group and remains a respected force in the publishing industry; however, the company's roots in legal publishing have all but disappeared.

This exhibit looks at Massachusetts as a microcosm of the progression of law publishing in the colonies and the United States—a progression from practically non-existent, to printing primary sources such as statutes and case reports, to reprinting English texts, to publishing new works from American jurists about the state of the law in a new and vibrant country. It should be noted that religious works, sermons, and other tracts and pamphlets related to legal issues were also being published in the colonies, but this exhibit focuses on primary law and more traditional legal commentaries and treatises.

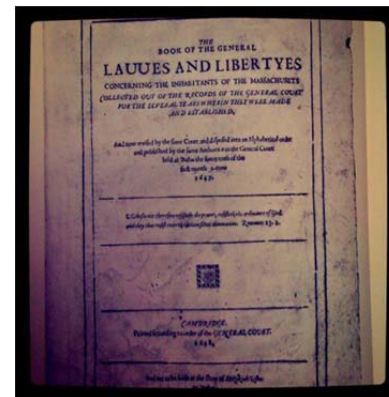
Many of the works featured in this exhibit were generously donated by Daniel R. Coquillette, Kathryn "Kitty" Preyer, and Frank Oliver—all great benefactors to the Rare Book Room here at Boston College Law Library.



**WOODEN EXHIBIT CASE (right of doors, if facing them from inside the room)**

✿ Statutes were among the earliest law-related materials to be published in the colonies. Displayed are several pre- and post-Revolution examples.

The first statutory compilation printed in colonial Massachusetts was *The Book of the General Lawes and Libertyes* (often referred to as the Code of 1648). This compilation included much—but not all—of the legislation of the General Court that was in force at the time of publication. The compilation was published by Matthew Day, son of the first American colonial printer, Steven Day, at their printing shop in Cambridge. To the right is a photo taken from a 1929 reprint of the one surviving copy of the original code. Thought lost for many years, the original surfaced in Rye, England in 1909 and ultimately landed in the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.



***The Laws and Liberties of Massachusetts*, reprinted from the copy of the 1648 edition in the Henry E. Huntington Library. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1929.**

***Acts and Laws, Of His Majesty's Province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New-England.* Boston, in New-England: Printed by S. Kneeland, by Order of His Excellency the Governor, Council and House of Representatives, 1759.**

This is the final compilation of the “permanent laws” of the Province of Massachusetts-Bay published before the American Revolution. It includes the Charter of King William and Queen Mary, signed in 1691 and inaugurated in Boston in 1692, which officially enlarged the territory governed by Massachusetts to include the old colony of Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth Colony, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, Maine, and parts of Nova Scotia. The permanent laws here published span from 1692 until the time of publication. *Shown open to title page.*

***The Perpetual Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, from the Establishment of its Constitution in October 1780 to the Last Wednesday in May 1789.* Boston: Adams and Nourse, 1789.**

In addition to containing the statutory law of the new Commonwealth, this post-Revolution compilation includes the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the United States and Massachusetts Constitutions, and the Treaty of Peace between the U.S. and Great Britain. *Shown open to title page.*

## **GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET II**

***The Perpetual Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, from the Establishment of its Constitution in October 1780 to the Last Wednesday in May 1789.* Worcester: I. Thomas, 1788-1799.**

This version of the *Perpetual Laws* was published by patriot printer Isaiah Thomas in a smaller form “to make the book convenient for the pocket, and cheap to the purchaser.” *Displayed open to Thomas's preface.*

***The By-Laws and Town-Orders of the Town of Boston.* Boston: Printed by Edmund Freeman, 1786.**

An early example of a municipal law compilation, this volume contains bylaws passed during 1785 and 1786. *Shown open to the provisions on money matters and mourning.*

**Thomas Hutchinson, *The History of the Colony of Massachusetts-Bay.* Boston, New-England: Printed by Thomas & John Fleet, at the Heart and Crown in Cornhill, 1764. Gift of Frank Oliver.**

Though not a lawbook, Hutchinson's history of Massachusetts-Bay includes valuable information on the colony's early legal history. At the time of publication, Hutchinson, the great-great grandson of Anne Hutchinson, was a Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. He would later become Governor and was known for his belief in Parliamentary supremacy. He was sent to England on a conciliatory mission and ultimately stayed for the remainder of his life, watching from abroad as his native colony became an independent state. *Displayed open to pg. 416-17, with a reference to the Salem witch trials on the verso.*

***The Constitutions of the Several Independent States of America.* Boston: Printed by Norman and Bowen, in Marshall's Lane, near the Boston stone, 1785. Second edition. Gift of Kathryn Preyer.**

Published by order of the U.S. Congress, this lovely volume contains the state constitutions of the original 13 colonies, along

with the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and several important treaties, including the Treaty of Paris of 1783. *Displayed open to the title page.*

### **GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET III**

✿ Justice of the Peace manuals were among the earliest law books published in the American colonies. Several examples are displayed in this case. On the top shelf is an American edition of an English favorite. After the Revolution, there was a need for localized manuals for justices of the peace, who played a significant role both in the administration of the government and the adjudication of cases in the new U.S., as they had in the colonies. The works on the bottom shelf are examples of these localized manuals.

**Richard Burn, *An Abridgment of Burn's Justice of the Peace and Parish Officer*, Boston: Printed for, and sold by Joseph Greenleaf, 1773. Gift of Kathryn "Kitty" Preyer.**

One of the most famous English manuals of this type was Richard Burn's *The Justice of the Peace*, first published in England in 1755; it became the standard manual for late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth-century magistrates. This is the first American edition, an abridgment of the original. *Shown open to title page.*

Joseph Greenleaf, the printer, was an interesting character. He helped Isaiah Thomas, another printer and publisher featured in this exhibit, publish the patriot newspaper the *Massachusetts Spy*. Greenleaf, who was a Justice of the Peace in Plymouth County in addition to being a printer, was summonsed before the governor in 1771 for writings in the *Spy*. He failed to appear and was dismissed from his duties as a Justice of the Peace.

**Samuel Freeman, *Massachusetts Justice*. Printed at Boston, by Isaiah Thomas and Ebenezer T. Andrews, 1802.**

You can see the end of Freeman's entry on dockets, including a sample docket sheet. Note the colorful names that he has assigned to his hypothetical parties. On the right page, you can see his entry for Dogs and the related laws that affect the duties of a justice of the peace. *Displayed open to pages 200-201.*

**Rodolphus Dickinson, *A Digest of the Common Law, the Statute Laws of Massachusetts, and of the United States, and the Decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, Relative to the Powers and Duties of Justices of the Peace, to which is Subjoined an Extensive Appendix of Forms*. Deerfield, MA: Published by John Wilson. 1818.**

John Wilson's printing office produced a number of items typical of a printer of his day, including reprints of popular works and broadsides. Rodolphus Dickinson was his brother-in-law and partner at the printing press.

*Displayed open to pages 154-55, which deal with the duties of justices of the peace with regard to the crime of larceny.*

### **GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET IV**

In addition to justice of the peace manuals, American printers and publishers would reprint English and continental legal texts. This case and then next include examples of this trend. Editors would often add annotations to American cases and statutes in order to make the works more useful to their readers.

**William Blackstone, *Commentaries on the Laws of England: in Four Books*. Printed at Worcester: By Isaiah Thomas: Sold at his bookstore in Worcester, and by him and company in Boston, 1790. Gift of Kathryn “Kitty” Preyer.**



This lovely four-volume set remains in its original leather binding.

After its initial publication in England in 1765, William Blackstone's *Commentaries* were widely imported and sold throughout the American colonies. Robert Bell, an enterprising Philadelphia printer,

published the first edition in the colonies in 1771 by subscription, meaning that individuals paid for the volumes in advance of their publication. The Philadelphia edition was so well received that Isaiah Thomas, a famous Boston and Worcester printer, published the first edition printed in the new United States in Worcester in 1790.

*The first volume is displayed open to the title page and frontispiece portrait of William Blackstone.*

**William Jones, *An Essay on the Law of Bailments*. Cornhill, Boston: From the press of Samuel Etheridge, for John West, no. 75, 1796. First American edition. Gift of Kathryn “Kitty” Preyer.**

First published in England in 1781, this work became an indispensable guide on its subject matter well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and greatly influenced Joseph Story's later work on the law of bailments. Jones himself was a fascinating individual and true polymath. He was the greatest linguist of his age, mastering 28 languages. During the American Revolution, he was outspoken in his criticism of English policy in the American colonies and was a

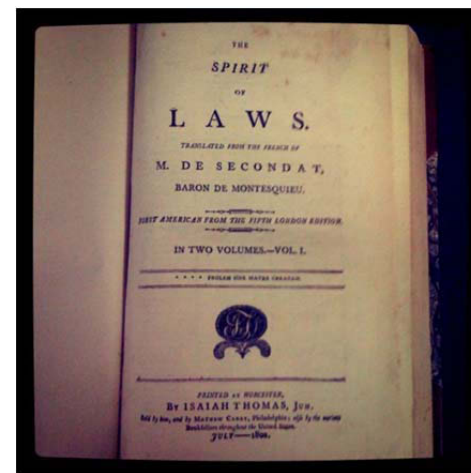
great friend and correspondent of Benjamin Franklin. From 1783 until his death, Jones was a justice on the Bengal Supreme Court in India. A sampling of his other achievement includes pioneering the Western study of Sanskrit and translations of Hindu poetry into English and Latin. *Shown closed.*

**Steward Kyd, *A Treatise on the Law of Bills of Exchange and Promissory Notes*. Boston: Printed by Manning & Loring, for S. Hall, W. Spotswood, J. White, Thomas & Andrews, D. West, E. Larkin, W.P. & L. Blake, and J. West, 1798.**

This is the first American edition of Kyd's text, based on the 3<sup>rd</sup> London edition. *Displayed open to the first page of Chapter 1.*

### **GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET V**

**Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of Laws*. Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, 1802. First American edition from the fifth London edition.**



Montesquieu was an 18<sup>th</sup> century French political thinker and social commentator famous for his articulation of the theory of separation of powers. *The Spirit of Laws* (see photo of title page to the left, with Isaiah Thomas's imprint) was his most famous work and greatly influenced the



drafters of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights and the United States Constitution.

*Volume 1 is displayed closed; volume 2 is open to the first page of Book XX, Chapter 1.*

**Samuel Marshall, *A Treatise on the Law of Insurance*. Boston: Printed by Manning and Loring for Daniel Johnson, of Portland, and sold by him, wholesale and retail, also, by C. Peirce, Portsmouth, Thomas & Whipple, Newburyport, Cushing & Appleton, Salem, and by all the principal Booksellers in Boston, 1805.**

This is the first American edition of Marshall's English treatise. *Displayed closed.*

**Charles Abbott, *Treatise of the Law Relative to Merchant Ships and Seamen*. Newburyport: E. Little & Co., 1810. Second American edition from the 3<sup>rd</sup> London edition.**

This is an American reprint of Abbott's well-known treatise on maritime law, which went through many editions in both the U.S. and Great Britain. This is a classic example of the trend of "Americanizing" English law books. Here, Joseph Story served as the American editor and provided copious annotations to the relevant cases in the U.S. court system.

*Displayed open to pages 386-387; note the addition of a New York case in footnote 1 by Story.*

## **GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET VI**

✿ Toward the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, a native base of legal literature began appearing in the United States. While reprints of English and continental texts continued to be popular (Joseph Chitty's works, for example, were reprinted in the U.S. throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century), American jurists and theorists began to create their own works, based on the distinct traditions and needs of the new nation. Joseph Story, James Kent, and Simon Greenleaf were three of the most important figures in establishing this canon of American legal literature, but other, perhaps less familiar names were also great contributors.

**Samuel Freeman, *The Probate Auxiliary*. Portland, MA: Printed by Benjamin Titcomb, 1793. First edition. Gift of Morris Cohen.**

Freeman wrote this early Massachusetts probate manual while he was serving as a Register of Probate in Maine (then still a part of Massachusetts). It is a collection of laws related to the estates of testators, intestates, and wards. Freeman created an alphabetical index for the work and included forms for the use of probate courts. Published first as *The Probate Auxiliary*, it was later retitled *The Probate Directory*. *Displayed open to the title page.*

**James Sullivan, *History of Land Titles in Massachusetts*. Boston: printed by I. Thomas and E. T. Andrews, 1801.**

Property law was a dominant concern in the new nation, and several of the earliest American texts focused on the subject.

Sullivan served as a member of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts (1774-1775), a member of the General Court (1775-1776), Justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (1776-1782), Massachusetts Attorney General (1790-1807), and Governor of Massachusetts (1807-1808). He was admitted to the bar in 1782, after already serving six years in the state's Supreme Court. During his service as Massachusetts Attorney General (1790-1807), he authored a series of books on finance and history, in addition to legal issues. He was one of the founders of the Massachusetts Historical Society and the namesake of Sullivan Square in Charlestown. He died in 1808 while serving as Governor.

*Displayed open to the portion of the preface in which Sullivan discusses the need for American law books, as opposed to relying on English legal scholars.*

**Joseph Story, *Selection of Pleadings in Civil Actions*. Salem: B. Macanulty, 1805. First edition.**

Joseph Story was one of the most influential legal thinkers of his age and indeed in American legal history. This was the first book published under his name, though it is generally accepted that he anonymously wrote an early American form book, *American Precedents of Declarations*. Story was a practitioner in Salem when this volume was published. In the preface, he mentions the need for an American book on special pleading. *Shown closed*.

**Benjamin Oliver, *Practical Conveyancing: a Selection of Forms of General Utility, with Notes Interspersed*. Boston: Published by**

**Cummings and Hilliard, no.1, Cornhill. Cambridge: Printed by Hilliard & Metcalf, 1816. First edition.**

This work was quite popular and would ultimately go through four editions. Friend to Nathaniel Hawthorne and brother-in-law to Joseph Story, Oliver practiced law in Boston and wrote a number of books, mostly on the law. In the preface to this work, Oliver discusses the need for a work on this topic aimed specifically at American practitioners (a common sentiment expressed in the early American law texts). It was later described by legal bibliographer J. G. Marvin as “undoubtedly the best American Manual upon Conveyancing and Use.”

*Displayed open to pages 58-59, which illustrate the plethora of annotations to Massachusetts cases.*

**Willard Phillips, *Treatise on the Law of Insurance*. Boston: Published by Wells and Lilly, no. 98, Court Street, 1823.**

Massachusetts born and educated, Phillips was an insurance law practitioner and later was President of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company. This represents one of the earliest American treatises on insurance law; five editions were ultimately published. Phillips authored several other legal works, including *The Law of Patents for Inventions* (1837), an early American intellectual property treatise.

*Displayed open to pages 290-291, in which Phillips discusses the risks covered when ships are insured. Notice the marginal notes which reference American cases, including opinions from the U.S Supreme Court and Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.*



## GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET VII

**Nathan Dane, *A General Abridgment and Digest of American Law*. Boston: Cummings, Hilliard & Co., 1823-29. Gift of Frank Oliver. Sole edition.**

During the 1820s, two authors sought to create an American version of Blackstone by analyzing the entire body of American law. The first work was this nine volume tome by Nathan Dane (two volumes are displayed here). It was an extremely important work, though it was ultimately eclipsed by the other effort—James Kent’s *Commentaries on American Law*. Royalties from the sale of Dane’s magnum opus were used to found the Dane professorship at Harvard Law School—a position later occupied by none other than Joseph Story. Indeed, Story dedicated the first edition of his *Commentaries on the Law of Bailments* (displayed in this exhibit) to Nathan Dane.

*Volume 1 is displayed closed, and volume 6 is displayed open to Dane’s discussion of crimes against religion and morality; note Article 5 (Jesuitism) & Article 7 (Witchcraft).*

**James Gould, *A Treatise on the Principles of Pleading in Civil Actions*. Boston: Lilly & Wait, 1832. First edition.**

Gould was an American jurist and early professor and administrator at the Litchfield Law School in Connecticut, the first law school in the States. Displayed closed is the first edition of his work on civil pleading—four more would be published in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. *Displayed closed.*

**Charles Jackson, *Treatise on Pleadings and Practice in Real Actions*. Boston: Wells & Lilly, 1828.**

Jackson served as a justice of the Supreme Judicial Court and was a member of the 1820 Massachusetts Constitutional Convention. He notes in the preface the paucity of American materials on the real action of ejectment and states that he endeavored to provide a digest of law and manual of pleadings adapted to American jurisprudence. *Shown open to Chapter 1.*

**L. S. Cushing, *A Practical Treatise on the Trustee Process, or, Foreign Attachment, of the Laws of Massachusetts and Maine*. Cambridge: Brown, Shattuck and Co.; Boston: Hilliard, Gray and Co., 1833.**

Luther Stearns Cushing was a prolific writer on Roman law and lectured at Harvard Law School on the subject for years; this was one of his few works on other topics. He served as Reporter for the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court from 1848-1853. *Displayed closed.*

## GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET VIII

✿ Joseph Story (1779-1845) is one of the most important jurists and legal scholars in American legal history. A practitioner, Supreme Court Justice, and Harvard Law professor, Story wrote widely on the law, legal topics as conflict of laws, equity, and bailments. A selection of his most important works is displayed in this case. His first major work, *Selection of Pleadings in Civil Actions* (1805) may be viewed in Cabinet VI.

**Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States*. Boston: Hilliard, Gray, and Co.; Cambridge: Brown, Shattuck, and Co., 1833. First edition. Purchased in honor of John Garvey, former Dean of BC Law.**



Often hailed as Story's most important work, this three-volume treatise was the first major text on American constitutional law. Here, Story provides an extensive and comprehensive analysis of the U.S. Constitution and provides an intellectual basis for his judicial nationalism. He

dedicated the work to his friend and colleague on the Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Marshall. *Volume 1 is shown open to title page. Volumes 2 & 3 are displayed closed.*

**Joseph Story, *The Constitutional Class Book*. Boston: Hilliard, Gray, and Co., 1834.**

This is a textbook version of the larger set displayed to its left; Story abridged it for the use of colleges and high schools. In the photo above, it sits atop the three-volume set. *Displayed closed.*

**Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Law of Bills of Exchange*. Little & Brown, 1843. Gift of Daniel R. Coquillette. First edition of four.**

Story dedicated this work to his friend and colleague Simon Greenleaf. *Displayed open to pages 298 and 299, which contains Story's copious references to Chitty, Blackstone, Kent, and to the laws of various American states.*

**Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Law of Bailments*. Cambridge: Hilliard & Brown, 1832. First edition.**

This treatise, the first of Story's Commentaries and the first of his series of treatises on commercial law, was written while Story was an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court and the Dane Professor Law at Harvard Law School. The work is dedicated to his friend and the benefactor of his professorship, Nathan Dane. Nine editions of this treatise would eventually be published. *Displayed closed.*

**Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Conflict of Laws, Foreign and Domestic*. Boston: Hilliard, Gray, and Co., 1834. First edition.**

Dedicated to James Kent, this first edition (seven more would follow) was the first systematic treatise on the topic of conflict of laws. It was widely acclaimed, and Story's son, William, deemed it his father's best work. *Displayed closed.*

**Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Law of Agency*. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1839. First edition of nine. *Displayed closed.***

**Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Law of Partnership*. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1841. First edition of seven. Gift of Daniel R. Coquillette. *Displayed closed.***

**Joseph Story, *Commentaries on the Law of Promissory Notes*. Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1845. First edition of seven.**

This was Story's last work—he died in September 1845. He had planned to write his next work on insurance law. *Displayed closed.*

### **GLASS EXHIBIT CASE LABELLED CABINET IX**

✿ This cabinet contains works from two of Joseph Story's associates at Harvard—Simon Greenleaf and Theophilus Parsons. Greenleaf was a law professor and indeed succeeded Joseph Story as Harvard's Dane Professor of Law. Parsons wrote widely on contracts, commercial law and maritime law and was a critically and commercially successful legal scholar.

**Simon Greenleaf, *A Treatise on the Law of Evidence*. Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1842-1853. 2 volumes. First edition. Purchased in honor of Michael Morales, BC Law Class of 2009.**

Greenleaf's evidence treatise is one of the most famous and enduring legal texts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and is *the* foundational text of the law of evidence in the U.S. The work went through 16 editions. John Henry Wigmore edited and annotated the final

edition and would go on to write *Wigmore on Evidence*, also published by Little, Brown in Boston. This lovely first edition, still in its original binding, belonged to Joseph Story and was inscribed to him by Greenleaf.

*Volume 1 is displayed open to Greenleaf's inscription. Volume 2 is displayed closed.*



**Simon Greenleaf, *A Discourse Commemorative of the Life and Character of the Hon. Joseph Story*. Boston: C.C. Little and J. Brown, 1845.**

Harvard University and the members of the law school community requested that Greenleaf write this memorial of his friend and colleague. Story died in September 1845. *Shown closed.*

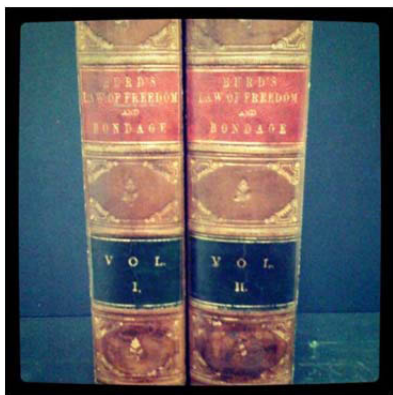
**Theophilus Parsons, *The Laws of Business for Business-men*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1857.**

Another Dane Professor of Law at Harvard, Parsons wrote several successful treatises, including *Law of Contracts*, *Law of Promissory Notes and Bills of Exchange*, *A Treatise on Maritime Law*, and the text displayed here. His father, also Theophilus Parsons, served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court.

*Shown open to the title page.*

**WOODEN EXHIBIT CASE (left of doors, if facing them from inside the room)**

**John C. Hurd, *The Law of Freedom and Bondage in the United States*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1858-1862.**



This beautiful two volume set features a contemporary three-quarter calf binding over marbled boards and gilt spines with raised bands and lettering pieces. It begins with an early history of bondage and its construction in natural and positive law, then traces the effect of international law on freedom and bondage. Turning to the U.S., Hurd outlines the evolution of slavery under English law and the Constitution.

*Volume 1 is displayed closed. Volume 2 is open to the portion on Massachusetts legislation involving freedom and bondage.*

**A Catalogue of Law and Miscellaneous Books Published by Little, Brown and Company. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1862.**

This small catalog remains in good condition with its original sewn wraps. The first 34 pages list law books for sale, while the remainder of the catalog is devoted to imported English and French books, including law journals. Most of the entries are accompanied by descriptions and often excerpts from reviews.  
*Displayed closed.*

**Christopher Columbus Langdell, *Selection of Cases on the Law of Contracts*. Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1871. First edition. Gift of Daniel R. Coquillette.**

Langdell was the dean of Harvard Law School from 1870-1895 and pioneered the case method of teaching law students, which is still in use today. This text revolutionized legal instruction and is the model for the casebooks used by modern law students.  
*Displayed open to Adams v. Lindsell—a case familiar to most 1L contracts students even today.*

**Charles Almy and Horace Fuller, *The Law of Married Women in Massachusetts*. Boston: George B. Reed, 1878.**

Almy and Fuller were members of the Suffolk County Bar Association. In this book, they dissect the contemporary state of the law as it pertains to married women in the areas of contractual powers, real estate, criminal liability, divorce, child custody, wills and intestacy and many others.  
*Displayed open to the title page.*



This exhibit was curated by Laurel Davis, Legal Information Librarian & Lecturer in Law and Curator of Rare Books at the Boston College Law Library.

Much of the information in this exhibit comes from the following sources:

Morris Cohen, "Legal Literature in Colonial Massachusetts," in *Law in Colonial Massachusetts 1630-1800*. Boston: The Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1984.

Jenni Parrish, "Law Books and Legal Publishing in America, 1760-1840," 72 *Law Libr. J.* 355 (1979).

Edwin C. Surrency, *A History of American Law Publishing*. New York: Oceana, 1990.

Visit the Rare Book Room's webpage or use the QR code below to view the digital edition of this exhibit:

