Law school isn’t designed to train you to be a people’s lawyer. The path you’ll walk through your education and early career is less traveled and absent many of the markers available to those seeking a traditional legal career. We’ve compiled a list of books and a few law review articles to help guide you, inspire you, and keep your passion strong to continue on the path towards a career in social justice.


Avery, Michael (ed.). *We Dissent: Talking Back to the Rehnquist Court, Eight Cases That Subverted Civil Liberties and Civil Rights.*


Berrigan, Philip. *Prison Journals of a Priest Revolutionary.*

Bogira, Steve. *Courtroom 302: A Year Behind the Scenes in an American Criminal Courthouse.*


Carroll, Leo. *Lawful Order: A Case Study of Correctional Crisis and Reform.*

Cohn, Marjorie. *Cowboy Republic: Six Ways the Bush Gang Has Defied the Law.*

Crenshaw, Kimberly, et. al. *Critical Race Theory: The Key Writings That Formed the Movement.*

Curry, Constance and Marian Wright Edelman. *Silver Rights: The story of the Carter family’s brave decision to send their children to an all-white school and claim their civil rights.*

Dees, Morris. *Hate on Trial: The Case Against America’s Most Dangerous Neo-Nazi.*


Earley, Pete. *Crazy: A Father’s Search Through America’s Mental Health Madness.*

   *Id. Hot House: Life Inside Leavenworth Prison.*


Flaherty, Jordan. *Floodlines: Community and Resistance from Katrina to the Jena Six.*

Fosl, Catherine. *Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South.*

Goldstein, Brandt. *Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Fought the President—And Won.*


Harris, Paul. *Black Rage Against the Law.*

Hentoff, Nat. Living the Bill of Rights: How to Be an Authentic American.


Kairys, David. Philadelphia Freedom: Memoir of a Civil Rights Lawyer.**

Kinoy, Arthur. Rights on Trial: The Odyssey of a People’s Lawyer.**


Kunstler, William. Politics on Trial.**

Langum, David J. William M. Kunstler.**

Lewis, Anthony. Gideon’s Trumpet.


Margulies, Joseph. Guantanamo and the Abuse of Presidential Power**

Nguyen, Tram. We Are All Suspects Now: Untold Stories from Immigrant America After 9/11.

Quigley, William P. Ending Poverty As We Know It: Guaranteeing a Right to a Job at a Living Wage.**


Protess, David. A Promise of Justice: The Eighteen-Year Fight to Save Four Innocent Men.


Ratner, Michael and Ellen Ray. Guantanamo: What the World Should Know.**


Tigar, Michael E. and Thomas Emerson. Law and the Rise of Capitalism.**


Watson, Bruce. Freedom Summer: The Savage Season That Made Mississippi Burn and Made America a Democracy.

**Written by or about a National Lawyers Guild member