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*Dare to Know*

## Legal Comics

*Comics that feature the practice of law and the interaction of lawyers, prosecutors, clients, witnesses, and judges.*

A genre in which the plot centers on specific criminal investigations, legal dilemmas, or courtroom dramas. The protagonist is usually an attorney who is involved in a legal case and investigates the crime on his or her own initiative, typically on behalf of an innocent client. The lawyer's task is to solve the crime despite adversarial forces and successfully argue their case in court. The protagonist's life is often in danger, as are the lives of his or her loved ones. The police are usually presented as being unable to achieve justice due to incompetence, stubbornness, laziness, or corruption. These stories usually showcase the impacts of navigating the judicial system on the characters involved, and ask readers to ponder their understanding of justice. Authors writing in this genre must possess a deep knowledge of the rules, procedures, and language of the legal world. Legal comics can incorporate elements of **detective and mystery comics**. Nicholas P. Dallis's *Judge Parker* (1952-ongoing) is a classic example.

### Common Elements

Criminal trials
Civil court cases
The legal process
Guilt and innocence

Justice and injustice
Truth and lies
Corruption

### Graphic Novel Examples

<i>Dillinger</i> (1973) by Henry Clement
<i>The Non Sequitur Legal Lampoon</i> (2002) by Wiley

<i>Tales of Supernatural Law</i> (2005) by Batton Lash
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