

The World of Theodore Boone:

LEGAL BRIEFING

You'll spend a lot of time in Strattenburg courthouse and you'll learn a lot about the law when you read the Theodore Boone books. Because the books are set in the US, the legal system is slightly different to the UK. But if you watch American TV crime series and films, Theo's world won't seem very strange to you.

In the books you might read references to "the Miranda rights" or to the police "reading rights" when they arrest someone.

The Miranda rights are named after the *Miranda v. Arizona* case in the Supreme Court in 1966 which established the rights people suspected of crimes have when they are questioned by police.

- The right to remain silent when questioned.
- The right to be warned that anything they say or do may be used against them in a court of law.
- The right to consult a lawyer before speaking to the police and to have a lawyer present during questioning.
- The right to stop answering questions at any time in order to talk to a lawyer.



The courthouse where Theo spends a lot of time is a general district court where all kinds of cases are tried for the first time. Every session starts in the way that you might have seen on TV, with a court officer saying "Hear ye, hear ye . . . Let all who have matters come forth. God bless this court."

The books also refer to "family court" (for decisions affecting the future of children) and "juvenile court" (for young people under 18 accused of crimes). As in the UK, these courts are less public, but Theo's experiences will reveal how they work.

After you've read some of the books, why not try **The Courtroom Hero Quiz** on the Theodore Boone website (www.theodoreboone.co.uk), with reference to the cases in the books, to learn more about how the law operates?