Clients

Although he knew that his reputation and legal practice would suffer greatly, Adams agreed to serve as defense attorney in the trial of Ireland’s accused “massacring” five colonists during a skirmish in John Adams's legal career. That evening, a local crowd converged on a small group of British soldiers in front of Boston's Custom House. The townspeople pelted the redcoats with sticks, oyster shells, and snowballs, provoking the anxious soldiers to fire into the crowd, killing five. The Bloody Massacre, perpetrated in King Street Boston, on March 5, 1770, marked a watershed moment in American history. Revere's vivid, hand-colored engraving is one of the most famous images of the event, but very few of the original artifacts to survive from the Boston Massacre trial and noted important eyewitness details in this dramatic rendering of the event. The simple hand-drawn sketch shows the available testimony and evidence. 

A Family Affair

I suffered very much for want of Books, which determined me to furnish myself, at any Sacrifice, with a proper Library: and according by degrees I procured the best Library of Law in the State.

— Autobiography of John Adams

Precedent: Past and Present

March 5, 1770 marked a watershed moment in American history. Revere's vivid, hand-colored engraving is one of the most famous images of the Boston Massacre, but very few of the original artifacts to survive from the trial and noted important eyewitness details in this dramatic rendering of the event. The simple hand-drawn sketch shows the available testimony and evidence.

Trial of the Century

I suffered very much for want of Books, which determined me to furnish myself, at any Sacrifice, with a proper Library: and accordingly by degrees I procured the best Library of Law in the State.

— Autobiography of John Adams