

Maryann Corbett

A Volume of Cases

The stiff-sewn quires. The buckram cover.
The meth abuse. The absent mother.
The prepaid phones that called each other.

The home foreclosed. The groaning debt.
The liabilities offset.
The punch thrown in the bar. The threat.

The dry recitals, where and when.
The last appeals of dying men.
The sentence to be parsed again.

The deference. The court's respect.
The reasoning it must reject.
The lives behind the pages, wrecked.

The pieces that will not align.
The silent matters they decline.
The gold impressed into the spine.