

# Terms from *The People's Law Dictionary*

## A

abandon	acquit	adverse	amend
abandoned property	acquittal	adverse interest	amended complaint
abandonment	act	adverse party	amended pleading
abate	action	adverse possession	American Bar Association
abatement	actionable	adverse witness	American Civil Liberties Union
abduction	act of God	advisory opinion	American Depository Receipt
abet	actual controversy	affiant	<i>amicus curiae</i>
abeyance	actual notice	affidavit	amnesty
<i>ab initio</i>	addendum	affirm	amortization
able-bodied	adeem	affirmative action	ancillary administration
abortion	ademption	affirmative defense	ancillary jurisdiction
abrogate	adequate remedy	affix	and
abscond	adhesion contract (contract of adhesion)	<i>a fortiori</i> (ah for-she-ory)	annuity
absolute	<i>ad hoc</i>	after-acquired property	answer
abstention doctrine	adjourn	after-acquired title	antenuptial (prenuptial) agreement
abstract	adjudication	after-discovered evidence	anticipatory breach
abstract of judgment	adjusted basis	age discrimination	antitrust laws
abstract of title	adjuster	agency	apparent authority
abuse of discretion	<i>ad litem</i>	agent	appeal
abuse of process	administer	agent for acceptance of service	appear
abut	administrative hearing	age of consent	appearance
acceleration	administrative law	aggravated assault	appellant
acceleration clause	administrative law judge	agreed statement	appellate court
accept	Administrative Procedure Act	agreement	appellee
acceptance	administrator	aid and abet	appraise
acceptance of service	admiralty	a.k.a.	appraiser
access	admissible evidence	aleatory	appreciate
accessory	admission	alias	appreciation
accommodation	admission against interest	alibi	approach
accomplice	admission of evidence	alien	approach the bench
accord and satisfaction	admission of guilt	alienation	approach the witness
account stated	admission to bail	alienation of affections	appurtenant
accounts payable	admit	alimony	<i>a priori</i> assumption (ah-pree- ory)
accounts receivable	adopt	aliquot (al-ee-kwoh)	arbitrator
accretion	adoption	allegation	arbitrary
accrue	<i>ad seriatim</i> (add sear-ee-ah- tim)	allege	arbitration
accusation	adultery	all the estate I own	arbitrator
accused	<i>ad valorem</i>	alluvion	<i>arguendo</i>
acknowledge	advance	alter ego	argumentative
acknowledgment	advancement	alternative pleading	arm's length
		ambiguity	

arraign  
arraignment  
arrears  
arrest  
arrest warrant  
arson  
article  
articles of impeachment  
articles of incorporation  
as is  
assault  
assault and battery  
assess  
asset  
assign  
assigned risk  
assignee  
assignment  
assignment for benefit of  
creditors  
Associate Justice  
association  
assume  
assumption  
assumption of risk  
assured  
attached  
attachment  
attempt  
attest  
attestation  
attorney  
attorney at law (or attorney-  
at-law)  
attorney's advertising  
attorney-client privilege  
Attorney General  
attorney-in-fact  
attorney of record  
attorney's fee  
attorney's work product  
attractive nuisance doctrine  
"at will" employment  
audit  
auditor  
authorities

authority  
authorize  
avulsion  
award  
  
**B**  
Bachelor of Laws  
back-to-back life sentences  
bad debt  
bad faith  
bail  
bail bond  
bail bondsman  
bailee  
bailiff  
bailment  
bailor  
bait and switch  
balance due  
balance sheet  
bank  
bankruptcy  
bankruptcy court  
bankruptcy proceedings  
bar  
bar association  
bar examination  
bargain  
barratry  
barrister  
basis  
battery  
beach bum trust provision  
bearer  
bearer paper  
belief  
bench  
bench warrant  
beneficial interest  
beneficial use  
beneficiary  
benefit  
benefit of counsel  
bequeath  
bequest

best evidence rule  
bestiality  
beyond a reasonable doubt  
BFP  
bias  
bid  
bifurcate  
bifurcation  
bigamy  
bilateral contract  
bill  
bill of attainder  
bill of exchange  
bill of lading  
bill of particulars  
Bill of Rights  
bill of sale  
binder  
blackmail  
blank endorsement  
blue laws  
blue ribbon jury  
blue sky laws  
board of directors  
boilerplate  
boiler room  
*bona fide*  
*bona fide* purchaser  
bond  
bondsman  
booby trap  
book account  
book value  
bottomry  
boycott  
breach  
breach of contract  
breach of the peace  
breach of promise  
breach of trust  
breach of warranty  
breaking and entering  
bribery  
brief  
broker

brought to trial  
bucket shop  
building and loan  
bulk sale  
bulk sales acts  
bulk transfer  
burden  
burden of proof  
burglary  
business  
business invitee  
"but for" rule  
buy-sell agreement  
bylaws

**C**  
calendar  
calendar call  
call  
calumny  
cancel  
cancellation  
caning  
canon law  
cap  
capital  
capital account  
capital assets  
capital expenditure  
capital gains  
capital investment  
capital offense  
capital punishment  
capitalization  
capitalized value  
capital stock  
capricious  
caption  
care  
careless  
carnal knowledge  
carrier  
carryback  
carrying for hire  
carrying on business

carryover	Chief Justice	collateral	concurrent sentences
cartel	child	collateral attack	condemn
case	child custody	collateral descendant	condemnation
case law	child support	collateral estoppel	condemnation action
case of first impression	churning	collusion	condition
case system	C.I.F.	collusive action	conditional bequest
cashier's check	circuit courts	color of law	conditional sale
casual	circumstantial evidence	color of title	condition precedent
casualty	citation	comaker	condition subsequent
casualty loss	cite	comity	condominium
cause	citizen	commencement of action	condone
cause of action	civil	comment	confess
caveat (kah-vee-ott)	civil action	commercial frustration	confession
<i>caveat emptor</i> (kah-vee-ott emptor)	civil calendar	commercial law	confession and avoidance
cease and desist order	civil code	commingling	confession of judgment
certificate of deposit (CD)	civil law	commission	confidence game
certificate of incorporation	civil liability	commitment	confidential communication
certificate of title	civil liberties	common area	confidential relation
certified check	civil penalties	common carrier	confiscate
<i>certiorari</i> (sersh-oh-rare-ee)	civil procedure	common counts	conflict of interest
<i>cestui que</i> trust (properly pronounced ses-tee kay, but lawyers popularly pronounce it setty kay)	civil rights	common law	conflict of law
<i>cestui que</i> use (pronounced ses-tee kay use or setty kay use)	claim	common-law marriage	confrontation
chain of title	claim in bankruptcy	common property	confusingly similar
challenge	claim against an estate	common stock	conjugal rights
challenge for cause	claim against a governmental agency	community property	conscientious objector
chambers	class	commutation	conscious parallelism
champerty	class action	commute a sentence	consent
chancellor	clean hands doctrine	company	consent decree
chancery	clear and convincing evidence	comparative negligence	consent judgment
change of circumstances	clear and present danger	compensation	consequential damages
character witness	clear title	compensatory damages	conservatee
charge	clerk	competent	conservator
charitable contribution	close corporation	complainant	consideration
charitable remainder trust (Charitable Remainder Irrevocable Unitrust)	closed shop	complaint	consign
charity	closing	<i>compos mentis</i> (com-pose men-tis)	consignee
charter	closing argument	compounding a felony	consignment
chattel	cloud on title (cloud)	compound interest	consortium
chattel mortgage	code	compound question	conspiracy
check	codefendant	compromise	conspirator
	Code of Professional Responsibility	compromise verdict	constable
	codicil	concealed weapon	constitution
	codify	concealment	constitutional rights
	cohabitation	conclusion	construction
	coinsurance	conclusion of fact	constructive
		conclusion of law	constructive eviction

constructive fraud	corroborating evidence	criminal law	declaratory relief
constructive notice	cosign	cross-complaint	decree
constructive possession	cost bill	cross-examination	decriminalization
constructive trust	cost of completion	cruel and unusual punishment	dedication
construe	costs	cruelty	deduction
consumer protection laws	cotenancy	cruelty to animals	deed
contemplation of death	cotenant	culpability	deed of trust
contempt of court	co-trustee	culpable	<i>de facto</i>
contiguous	counsel	cumis counsel	<i>de facto</i> corporation
contingency	counsellor	cumulative sentence	defalcation
contingent	count	cumulative voting	defamation
contingent beneficiary	counterclaim	curtesy	default
contingent fee	counterfeit	custody	default judgment
contingent interest	counter offer	Customs Court	defeasance
contingent remainder	counterpart	cut a check	defect
continuance	course	<i>cy pres</i> doctrine (see-pray doctrine)	defective
continuing objection	course of employment		defective title
continuing trespass	court		defendant
<i>contra</i>	court calendar	<b>D</b>	defense
contract	court costs	D.A.	defense attorney
contract of adhesion	court docket	damages	deficiency judgment
contractor	court-martial	dangerous	deficit
contribution	court of appeals	dangerous weapon	defraud
contributory negligence	Court of Customs and Patent Appeals	date rape	degree of kinship
control	court of equity	day in court	<i>de jure</i>
controlled substance	court of law	d.b.a.	<i>de jure</i> corporation
controlling law	court trial	deadly weapon	delayed exchange
controversy	covenant	dealer	delegate
conversion	covenants, conditions and restrictions	death penalty	deleterious
convey	covenant not to compete	death row	deliberate
conveyance	covenant that runs with the land	debenture	deliberation
convict	credibility	debt	delinquent
conviction	credible witness	debtor	deliver
cooperative	creditor	debtor in possession	delivery
cooperative housing	creditor's claim	deceased	demand
cop a plea	creditor's rights	decedent	demand note
copartner	crime	deceit	<i>de minimis</i> (dee-minnie-miss)
copyright	crime against nature	deception	demise
coroner	crime of passion	decide	demonstrative evidence
corporate opportunity	criminal	decision	demurrer (dee-muhr-ur)
corporation	criminal attorney	declarant	denial
<i>corpus</i>	criminal calendar	declaration	<i>de novo</i>
<i>corpus delicti</i> (corpus dee-lick-tie)	criminal justice	declaration of mailing	dependent
<i>corpus juris</i>		declaration of trust	depletion
corroborate		declaratory judgment	deponent

deportation	dismiss	draft	employer
depose	dismissal	dram shop rule	employment
deposition	dismissal with prejudice	draw	enabling clause
depreciate	dismissal without prejudice	drawee	<i>en banc</i> (on bonk)
depreciation	disorderly conduct	drawer	enclosure (inclosure)
depreciation reserve	disorderly house	driving under the influence (D.U.I.)	encroach
derelict	disposing mind and memory	driving while intoxicated (D.W.I.)	encroachment
dereliction	disposition	drop dead date	encumbrance (incumbrance)
derivative action	dispossess	due	endorse (indorse)
descent	dissent	due care	endorsement (indorsement)
descent and distribution	dissenting opinion	due and owing	endowment
desert	dissolution of corporation	due, owing and unpaid	enjoin
desertion	dissolution	due process of law	enjoyment
determinable	distinguish	D.U.I.	enter a judgment
deuce	distress	duress	entity
devise	distribute	duty	entrapment
devisee	distribution	duty of care	entry of judgment
devolution	District Attorney (D.A.)	D.W.I.	environmental impact report
devolve	district court	dying declaration	environmental law
devolution	disturbing the peace		equal opportunity
<i>dicta</i>	diversion		equal protection of the law
<i>dictum</i>	diversity of citizenship		equitable
diligence	divestiture	<b>E</b>	equitable estoppel
diminished capacity	divestment	earnest payment	equitable lien
diminution in value	dividend	easement	equity
direct and proximate cause	divorce	egress	equity of redemption
directed verdict	DNA	EIR	equivalent
direct evidence	docket	ejectment	<i>ergo</i> (air-go)
direct examination	document	<i>ejusdem generis</i> (eh-youse-dem generous)	erroneous
director	documentary evidence	elder law	error
disability	doing business	election of remedies	errors and omissions
disbar	domestic partners	election under the will	escalator clause
disbarment	domestic relations	eleemosynary (eh-luh-moss-uh-nary)	escape clause
discharge	domestic violence	element	escheat
discharge in bankruptcy	domicile	emancipation	escrow
disclaimer	dominant estate	embezzlement	escrow agent
discount	dominant tenement	embezzler	escrow instructions
discovery	donation	emblems	espionage
discretion	donative intent	emergency	esquire
discrimination	donee	eminent domain	estate
disfigure	donor	emolument	estate by entirety
dishonor	double jeopardy	emotional distress	estate tax
disinherit	double taxation	employee	estop
disinheritance	dower		estoppel
disjunctive allegations	dowry		<i>et al.</i>

*et seq.* (et seek)  
*et ux.* (et uhks)  
 evasion of tax  
 eviction  
 evidence  
 examination  
 exception  
 exception in deed  
 excessive bail  
 exchange  
 excise  
 exclusionary rule  
 exculpatory  
 excusable neglect  
*ex delicto* (ex dee-lick-toe)  
 execute  
 executed  
 execution  
 executive clemency  
 executive order  
 executive privilege  
 executor  
 executory  
 executory interest  
 executrix (pl. executrices)  
 exemplary damages  
 exemption  
 exhibit  
*ex officio* (ex oh-fish-ee-oh)  
*ex parte* (ex par-tay, but  
 popularly, ex party)  
 expectancy  
 expense  
 expert testimony  
 expert witness  
*ex post facto*  
 express  
 express contract  
 expropriation  
*ex rel*  
 extension  
 extenuating circumstances  
 extinguishment  
 extortion  
 extradition  
 extrajudicial

extraordinary fees  
 extreme cruelty  
 extrinsic fraud  
 eyewitness

## F

face amount  
 face value  
 fact  
 fact finder (finder of fact)  
 factor  
 failure of consideration  
 failure of issue  
 fair comment  
 fair market value  
 fair trade laws  
 fair use  
 false arrest  
 false imprisonment  
 false pretenses  
 family  
 family purpose doctrine  
 federal courts  
 federal question  
 Federal Tort Claims Act  
 fee  
 fee simple  
 fee tail  
 felon  
 felonious  
 felony  
 felony murder doctrine  
 fertile octogenarian  
 fictitious defendants  
 fiduciary  
 fiduciary relationship  
 fighting words  
 file  
 final decree  
 final judgment  
 final settlement  
 finding  
 findings of fact  
 firm offer  
 first degree murder

first impression  
 fixture  
 flight  
 floating easement  
 FOB  
 forbearance  
 forced sale  
 forcible entry  
 foreclosure  
 foreclosure sale  
 foreign corporation  
 forensic  
 forensics  
 forensic medicine  
 forensic testimony  
 foreseeable risk  
 foreseeability  
 forfeit  
 forfeiture  
 forger  
 forgery  
 fornication  
 forthwith  
 forum  
*forum non conveniens* (for-  
 uhm nahn cahn-vee-nee-  
 ehns)  
 for value received  
 foster child  
 four comers of an instrument  
 franchise  
 franchise tax  
 fraud  
 fraud in the inducement  
 fraudulent conveyance  
 free and clear  
 freehold  
 free on board (FOB)  
 fresh pursuit  
 friendly suit  
 frisk  
 frivolous  
 fruit of the poisonous tree  
 frustration of purpose  
 fugitive from justice  
 fungible things

full faith and credit  
 full disclosure  
 future interest

## G

gag order  
 garnish  
 garnishee  
 garnishment  
 gender bias  
 general appearance  
 general counsel  
 general damages  
 general denial  
 general partner  
 general plan  
 generation skipping  
 gift  
 gift in contemplation of death  
 gift tax  
 go bail  
 good cause  
 good faith  
 goods  
 Good Samaritan rule  
 good title  
 goodwill  
 governmental immunity  
 grace period  
 grandfather clause  
 grandfathered in  
 Grand Jury  
 grand larceny  
 grand theft  
 grant  
 grant deed  
 grantee  
 grantor  
 grantor-grantee index  
 gratuitous  
*gravamen*  
 gross negligence  
 gross income  
 guarantee  
 guarantor

guaranty  
guardian  
guardian *ad litem*  
guest  
guest statute  
guilty

## H

*habeas corpus* (hay-bee-us core-puss)  
habitable  
habitual criminal  
half blood  
harass (either harris or huh-rass)  
harassment (either harris-meant or huh-rass-meant)  
harmless error  
headnote  
head of household  
hearing  
hearsay  
hearsay rule  
heat of passion  
heir  
heir apparent  
heiress  
heirs of the body  
held  
hereditament  
hidden asset  
highway  
hit and run  
hobby loss  
holder  
holder in due course  
holding  
holding company  
holdover tenancy  
hold harmless  
holographic will  
home rule  
homestead  
hometowned  
homicide

hornbook law  
hostile possession  
hostile witness  
hotchpot  
hot pursuit  
house counsel  
household  
hung jury  
hypothecate

## I

i.e.  
illegal  
illegal immigrant  
illusory promise  
immaterial  
immediately  
immunity  
impanel  
impaneling  
impeach  
impeachment  
impleader  
implied  
implied consent  
implied contract  
implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing  
implied warranty  
impossibility  
impotence  
impound  
improvement  
impute  
*in absentia* (in ab-sensh-ee-ah)  
*in camera*  
incapacity  
incest  
in chambers  
inchoate  
incidental beneficiary  
income  
income tax  
incompatible  
incompatibility  
incompetency  
incompetent  
incompetent evidence  
incontrovertible evidence  
incorporate  
incorporate by reference  
incorporation  
incorporeal  
incriminate  
incumbrance  
indecent exposure  
indefeasible  
indemnify  
indemnity  
indenture  
independent contractor  
indeterminate sentence  
*indicia* (in-dish-yah)  
indictable offense  
indictment  
indigent  
indispensable party  
indorse  
indorsement  
*in extremis* (in ex-tree-miss)  
infancy  
in fee simple  
inference  
*in forma pauperis* (in form-ah paw-purr-iss)  
information  
information and belief  
informed consent  
*infra*  
infringement  
ingress  
*in haec verba* (in hike verb-ah)  
inherit  
inheritance  
injunction  
injunctive relief  
injury  
in kind  
in lieu  
*in limine* (in lim-in-ay)

*in loco parentis* (in loh-coh pah-rent-iss)  
innocent  
innuendo  
*in pari delicto* (in pah-ree dee-lick-toe)  
in perpetuity  
*in personam* (in purr-soh-nam)  
*in pro per*  
*in propria persona*  
inquest  
in re  
*in rem*  
insanity  
insanity defense  
insertion  
insider  
insider trading  
insolvency  
inspection of documents  
installment contract  
instruction  
instrument  
insufficient evidence  
insurance  
insured  
insurer  
intangible property  
integration  
intent  
*inter alia* (in-tur eh-lee-ah)  
interest  
interim order  
interlineation  
interlocutory  
interlocutory decree  
international law  
interpleader  
interrogation  
interrogatories  
*in terrorem* clause (in tehr-roar-em)  
*inter se* (in-tur say)  
interstate commerce  
intervene

intervening cause  
 intervention  
*inter vivos* (in-tur veye-vohs)  
*inter vivos* trust  
 intestacy  
 intestate  
 intestate succession  
*in toto* (in toe-toe)  
 intoxication  
 intrinsic fraud  
 inure  
 invasion of privacy  
 inverse condemnation  
 invest  
 investment  
 invitee  
 involuntary  
*ipse dixit* (ip-sah dicks-it)  
*ipso facto* (ip-soh fact-toe)  
 irreconcilable differences  
 irrelevant  
 irreparable damage or injury  
 issue

## J

J  
 jaywalking  
 Jane Doe  
 J.D.  
 jeopardy  
 jobber  
 John Doe  
 joinder  
 joinder of issue  
 joint  
 joint adventure  
 joint and several  
 joint custody  
 joint enterprise  
 joint liability  
 joint powers agreement  
 joint tenancy  
 joint tortfeasors  
 joint venture  
 Jones Act

judge  
 judge advocate  
 judge advocate general (J.A.G.)  
 judgment  
 judgment by default  
 judgment creditor  
 judgment debt  
 judgment debtor  
 judgment notwithstanding the verdict (N.O.V.)  
 judicial  
 judicial discretion  
 judicial foreclosure  
 judicial notice  
 judicial proceedings  
 judicial sale  
 jump bail  
*jurat* (jur-at)  
 jurisdiction  
 jurisdictional amount  
 jurisprudence  
 Juris Doctor (J.D.)  
 jurist  
 juror  
 jury  
 jury box  
 jury fees  
 jury of one's peers  
 jury panel  
 jury selection  
 jury stress  
 jury tampering  
 jury trial  
 just compensation  
 justice  
 justice of the peace (JP)  
 justiciable  
 justifiable homicide  
 juvenile court  
 juvenile delinquent

## K

K  
 kangaroo court

kidnapping (also spelled kidnaping)  
 kin

## L

labor and materials  
 laches  
 land  
 landlady  
 landlocked  
 landlord  
 landlord's lien  
 landlord and tenant  
 lapse  
 larceny  
 last antecedent rule  
 last clear chance  
 last will and testament  
 latent defect  
 lateral support  
 law  
 law and motion calendar  
 law book  
 law of admiralty  
 law of the case  
 law of the land  
 lawsuit  
 lay a foundation  
 leading  
 leading question  
 leading the witness  
 lease  
 leasehold  
 legacy  
 legal  
 legal action  
 legal advertising  
 legal age  
 legal aid society  
 legal duty  
 legalese  
 legal fiction  
 legal separation  
 legal services  
 legal tender

legatee  
 legitimate  
 lemon law  
 lessee  
 lesser crime  
 lesser-included offense  
 lessor  
 let  
 letter of credit  
 letters  
 letters of administration  
 letters testamentary  
 leverage  
 levy  
 lewd and lascivious  
 liability  
 liable  
 libel  
 libel *per se*  
 liberty  
 license  
 licensee  
 licensor  
 lie detector test  
 lien  
 lienor  
 life estate  
 life without possibility of parole  
 limitation of actions  
 limited jurisdiction  
 limited partnership  
 limited liability  
 lineal descendant  
 lineup  
 liquidate  
 liquidated damages  
*lis pendens* (lease pen-dense)  
 literary property  
 litigant  
 litigation  
 litigious  
 living trust  
 living will  
 locus (low-cuss)  
 loiter



long-arm statute  
long cause  
loss  
loss of bargain  
loss of consortium  
loss of use  
lower court

## M

magistrate  
Magna Carta (also spelled Magna Charta)  
mail box rule  
maim  
majority  
make  
make one whole  
maker  
malfeasance  
malice  
malice aforethought  
malicious prosecution  
malpractice  
*malum in se* (mal-uhm in say)  
*malum prohibitum* (mal-uhm pro-hibit-uhm)  
*mandamus* (man-dame-us)  
mandate  
mandatory  
mandatory joinder  
manifest  
Mann Act  
manslaughter  
marital deduction  
marital rights  
maritime law  
mark  
marked for identification  
marketable title  
market value  
marriage  
marshal  
martial law  
Massachusetts Trust  
master  
master and servant  
material  
material representation  
material witness  
matter of record  
maturity  
may  
mayhem  
McNabb-Mallory rule  
mechanic's lien  
mediation  
mediator  
meet and confer  
meeting of the minds  
memorandum  
*mens rea* (menz ray-ah)  
mental anguish  
mental competency  
mental cruelty  
mental suffering  
mercantile law  
merchandise  
merger  
mesne (mean, with a silent s)  
mesne profits  
metes and bounds (meets and bounds)  
military law  
mining claim  
ministerial act  
minor  
minority  
minutes  
Miranda warning  
"mirror" wills  
misadventure  
misappropriation  
misdemeanor  
misfeasance  
misjoinder  
misnomer  
misprision of a felony  
misrepresentation  
mistake  
mistrial  
mitigating circumstances

mitigation of damages  
M'Naughten rule  
M.O.  
modification  
modus operandi (mode-us ah-purr-and-ee or ah-purr-and-eye)  
moiety (moy-et-tee)  
molestation  
monopoly  
month-to-month  
monument  
moot  
moot court  
moot point  
moral certainty  
moral turpitude  
moratorium  
mortgage  
mortgagee  
mortgagor  
motion  
motion for a new trial  
motion for dismissal (nonsuit)  
motion for a summary judgment  
motion *in limine* (lim-in-nay)  
motion to strike  
motion to suppress  
motive  
mouthpiece  
movant  
move  
multifarious  
multiplicity of suits  
municipal  
municipal court  
muniment of title  
murder  
mutual  
mutual wills

## N

National Labor Relations Board  
natural law

natural person  
necessary  
necessary inference  
necessary party  
negative declaration  
negative pregnant  
negligence  
negligence *per se* (purr say)  
negligent  
negotiable instrument  
negotiation  
net  
net estate  
new matter  
next friend  
next of kin  
*nihil* (ni [as in it]-hill)  
*nil*  
*nisi prius* (nee-see pree-us)  
no contest  
no fault insurance  
no fault divorce  
*nolle prosequi* (no-lay pro-say-kwee)  
*nolo contendere* (no-low kahn-tendurr-ray)  
nominal damages  
nominal party  
nominee  
*non compos mentis* (nahn com-pose meant-is)  
non-conforming use  
non-contestability clause  
non-contiguous  
non-discretionary trust  
non-feasance  
non-jury trial  
non-profit corporation  
*non sequitur* (nahn sek [as in heck]-kwit-her)  
nonsuit  
no-par stock  
notary  
notary public  
note  
not guilty

not guilty by reason of insanity  
notice  
notice of default  
notice to quit  
notorious possession  
N.O.V.  
novation  
noxious  
nugatory  
nuisance  
nullity  
*nunc pro tunc* (nuhnk proh tuhnhk):

## O

oath  
*obiter dicta* (oh-bitter dick-tah)  
object  
objection  
obligation  
obligee (ah-bluh-jee)  
obligor (ah-bluh-gore)  
obscene  
obstruction of justice  
occupancy  
occupant  
occupation  
occupational disease  
occupational hazard  
occupy the field  
of counsel  
off calendar  
offender  
offense  
offer  
offeree  
offer of proof  
offeror  
officer  
officer of the court  
official  
official misconduct  
officious intermeddler

offset  
offshore corporation  
omission  
omnibus clause  
on all fours  
on demand  
on file  
on or about  
on or before  
on the merits  
on the stand  
open court  
opening statement  
operation of law  
opinion  
option  
or  
O.R.  
oral contract  
order  
order to show cause  
ordinance  
ordinary  
ordinary course of business  
original jurisdiction  
orphan  
O.S.C.  
ostensible agent  
ostensible authority  
ouster  
outbuilding  
out of court  
outlaw  
out-of-pocket expenses  
output contract  
overcharge  
overrule  
overt act  
owe  
own  
owner  
ownership  
own recognizance (O.R.)

## P

paid into court  
pain and suffering  
palimony  
pander  
panderer  
panel  
paper hanger  
par  
paralegal  
paramount title  
parcel  
pardon  
*parens patriae* (paa-rens pat-tree-eye)  
parent  
parental neglect  
*pari delicto*  
parish  
parody  
parol  
parole  
parol evidence rule  
partial  
partial breach  
partial disability  
partial verdict  
participate  
partition  
partner  
partnership  
party  
party of the first part  
party of the second part  
party wall  
passenger  
passion  
passive  
patent  
patent ambiguity  
patent defect  
patent infringement  
patent pending  
paternity suit  
pawn  
pay  
payable

payable on demand  
payee  
payment in due course  
payment in full  
payor (payer)  
peaceable possession  
peace bond  
peculation  
pecuniary  
pedophilia  
peeping tom  
peer  
peer review  
penal  
penalty  
*pendente lite* (pen-den-tay lee-tay)  
pendent jurisdiction  
penitentiary  
people  
*per*  
*per capita*  
*per curiam*  
*per diem*  
peremptory  
peremptory challenge  
peremptory writ of mandate (or *mandamus*)  
perfect  
perfected  
perform  
performance  
perjurer  
perjury  
permanent disability  
permanent injunction  
permanent injury  
permissive  
permit  
perpetuity  
*per se* (purr say)  
person  
personal effects  
personal property  
personal service  
personal services

personalty	power of appointment	private property	<i>pro se</i> (proh say)
<i>per stirpes</i> (purr stir-peas)	power of attorney	private road	prosecute
petition	practicable	privilege	prosecution
petitioner	practice	privilege against self incrimination	prosecutor
petit jury	pray	privileged communication	prospectus
petty larceny	prayer	privileges and immunities	prostitute
physician-patient privilege	precatory	privity	prostitution
picketing	precedent	probable cause	<i>pro tanto</i> (proh tahn-toe)
pierce the corporate veil	predecease	probate	protective custody
pilferage	preemption	probation	<i>pro tem</i>
pimp	preemptive right	probative	<i>pro tempore</i> (proh temp-oh-ray)
pink slip	preference	probative facts	protest
piracy	preferred dividend	probative value	prove
plagiarism	preferred stock	<i>pro bono</i>	provisional remedy
plain error	preliminary hearing	procedure	proviso
plaintiff	preliminary injunction	proceeding	proximate cause
plaintiff's attorney	premeditation	process	proxy
plain view doctrine	premises	process server	prudent man rule
plea	premium	proctor	public
plea in abatement	prenuptial agreement	product liability	public administrator
plea bargain	preponderance of the evidence	professional corporation	publication
plead	prerogative writ	professional negligence	public benefit corporation
pleading	prescription	proffer	public charge
pledge	prescriptive easement	<i>pro forma</i>	public corporation
plenary	presentment	<i>pro hac vice</i> (proh hock vee-chay)	public defender
police court	presiding judge	prohibition	public domain
police powers	presumption	promise	public easement
political question	presumption of innocence	promissory estoppel	public figure
polygamy	pretermitted heir	promissory note	public nuisance
polygraph	pretrial discovery	promoter	public property
pornography	prevailing party	promotional stock	public record
positive law	price fixing	proof	public trust doctrine
<i>posse comitatus</i> (pahs-see coh-mitt-tah-tus)	<i>prima facie</i> (pry-mah fay-shah)	<i>pro per</i>	public use
possess	<i>prima facie</i> case	proper party	public utility
possession	prime suspect	property	publish
possession of stolen goods	primogeniture	property damage	puffing
possessory interest	principal	property tax	punitive damages
possibility of a reverter	principal place of business	<i>propria persona</i>	putative
post	prior(s)	proprietary	
postdated check	priority	proprietary interest	<b>Q</b>
<i>post mortem</i>	prior restraint	proprietary rights	<i>quantum meruit</i> (kwahn-tuhm mare-ooH-it)
pot	privacy	proprietor	quash
pour over will	private carrier	<i>pro rata</i> (proh rat-ah or proh ray-tah)	quasi (kway-zeye, kwah-zee)
power	private nuisance		
power of acceptance	private parts		

quasi community property  
 quasi contract  
 quasi corporation  
 quasi-criminal  
 quasi *in rem*  
 quasi-judicial  
 Queen's Bench  
 query  
 question of fact  
 question of law  
*quid pro quo* (kwid proh kwoh)  
 quiet enjoyment  
 quiet title action  
 quit  
*qui tam* action (kwee tam)  
 quitclaim deed  
 quorum  
 quotient verdict  
*quo warranto* (kwoh wahr-  
 rahn-toe)

## R

race to the courthouse  
 Racketeer Influenced Corrupt  
 Organization (RICO) statute  
 racketeering  
 ransom  
 rape  
 ratable  
 ratification  
 ratify  
 rational basis  
 ready, willing and able  
 real estate  
 real estate investment trust  
 real party in interest  
 real property  
 realty  
 reasonable  
 reasonable care  
 reasonable doubt  
 reasonable reliance  
 reasonable speed  
 reasonable time  
 reasonable wear and tear

rebate  
 rebuttable presumption  
 rebuttal  
 recapture  
 receipt  
 receiver  
 receivership  
 recess  
 recidivist  
 reciprocal discovery  
 reciprocity  
 reckless  
 reckless disregard  
 reckless driving  
 reconveyance  
 record  
 records  
 recording acts  
 recoupment  
 recourse  
 recover  
 recoverable  
 recovery  
 recusal  
 recuse  
 redeem  
 redemption  
 reentry  
 referee  
 referendum  
 reformation  
 refresh one's memory  
 register  
 registration statement  
 registry of deeds  
 regulations  
 rehearing  
 rejection of claim  
 release  
 release on one's own  
 recognizance  
 relevancy  
 relevant  
 reliance  
 reliction  
 relief

remainder  
 remainderman  
 remand  
 remedy  
 remise  
 remittitur  
 remote  
 removal  
 renewal  
 rent  
 rental value  
 renunciation  
 reorganization  
 repair  
 repeal  
 replevin  
 reply brief  
 reports  
 repossess  
 represent  
 representation  
 representative  
 reprieve  
 repudiation  
 reputation  
 reputed  
 request  
 requirements contract  
*res* (rayz)  
*res adjudicata*  
 resale  
 rescind  
 rescission  
 rescue doctrine  
 reservation  
 reserve  
 reserve fund  
*res gestae* (rayz jest-tie)  
 residence  
 resident  
 residuary bequest  
 residue  
*res ipsa loquitur* (rayz ip-sah  
 loh-quit-her)  
 resisting arrest  
*res judicata* (rayz judy-cot-ah)

resolution  
*respondeat superior* (rehs-  
 pond-dee-at superior)  
 respondent  
 responsible  
 Restatement of the Law  
 restitution  
 restraining order  
 restraint on alienation  
 restraint of trade  
 restriction  
 restrictive covenant  
 restrictive endorsement  
 result  
 resulting trust  
 retainer  
 retire  
 retraction  
 retrial  
 retroactive  
 return of service  
 revenue ruling  
 reversal  
 reversible error  
 reversion  
 reverter  
 review  
 revival  
 revocation  
 revoke  
 RICO  
 rider  
 right  
 rights  
 right of way  
 right to privacy  
 riparian  
 riparian rights  
 riot  
 ripe  
 risk  
 risk of loss  
 roadside test  
 robbery  
 rogatory letters  
 royalty

rule  
rule against perpetuities  
rules of court  
ruling  
running with the land  
running at large

## S

said  
sale  
salvage  
sanction  
satisfaction  
satisfaction of judgment  
satisfaction of mortgage  
save harmless  
savings and loan  
*scienter*  
scintilla  
scope of employment  
scrivener  
seal  
sealed verdict  
sealing of records  
search  
search and seizure  
search warrant  
secondary boycott  
second degree murder  
secret rebate  
secured transaction  
securities  
security deposit  
security interest  
sedition  
seduction  
seisin (sees-in)  
seized (also seised)  
seizure  
self-dealing  
self-defense  
self-executing  
self-help  
self-incrimination  
self-serving

sell  
seller  
senior lien  
sentence  
separate property  
separation  
separation agreement  
sequester  
sequestration  
*seriatim* (sear-ee-ah-tim)  
servant  
service  
service by FAX  
service by mail  
service by publication  
service of process  
services  
servient estate  
session  
set  
set aside  
setoff (offset)  
setting  
settle  
settlement  
settlor  
severable contract  
several liability  
severance  
sex offender  
sexual harassment  
shall  
share  
share and share alike  
shareholder  
shareholders' agreement  
shareholders' derivative action  
shareholders' meeting  
sharp practice  
Shepardize  
sheriff  
sheriff's sale  
shield laws  
shifting the burden of proof  
short cause

shortening time  
show cause order  
sidebar  
sign  
silent partner  
similarly situated  
simple trust  
simultaneous death act  
*sine qua non* (see-nay kwah nahn)  
situs  
slander  
small claims court  
sodomy  
sole proprietorship  
solicitation  
solicitor  
Solicitor General  
solitary confinement  
solvency  
sound mind and memory  
sounds in  
speaking demurrer  
special  
special administrator  
special appearance  
special circumstances  
special damages  
special master  
special prosecutor  
special verdict  
specific bequest  
specific devise  
specific finding  
specific legacy  
specific performance  
speculative damages  
speedy trial  
spendthrift clause  
spot zoning  
spontaneous exclamation  
spousal support  
springing interest  
stakeholder  
standard of care  
standing

star chamber proceedings  
*stare decisis* (stah-ree duh-sigh-sis)  
state  
state action  
state of domicile  
status conference  
statute  
statute of frauds  
statute of limitations  
statutory offer of settlement  
statutory rape  
stay  
stay away order  
stay of execution  
stipulation  
stock  
stock certificate  
stockholder  
stockholders' derivative action  
stock in trade  
stock option  
stop and frisk  
straw man  
street  
strict construction (narrow construction)  
strict liability  
strike  
structure  
*sua sponte* (sooh-uh spahn-tay)  
subchapter S corporation  
subcontractor  
subject to  
sublease  
submitted  
subordination  
subordination agreement  
subornation of perjury  
subpena (also spelled subpoena) (suh-pea-nah)  
subpena *duces tecum* (suh-pea-nah dooh-chess-take-uhm or dooh-kess-take-uhm)  
subpoena

subrogation  
 subrogee  
 subrogor  
 subscribe  
 substantial performance  
 substantive law  
 substituted service  
 substitute in  
 substitution  
 substitution of attorney  
 succession  
 successive sentences  
 suffering  
 suicide  
*sui generis* (sooh-ee jen-ur-iss)  
 suit  
 sum certain  
 summation  
 summary adjudication of issues  
 summary judgment  
 summons  
 Superior Court  
*supersedeas* (sooh-purr-said-ee-uhs)  
 superseding cause  
 supplemental  
 suppression of evidence  
 supra (sooh-prah)  
 supremacy clause  
 Supreme Court  
 surcharge  
 surety  
 surplusage  
 surrebutal  
 surrender  
 surrogate  
 surrogate court  
 survivor  
 survivorship  
 suspended sentence  
 sustain  
 swear  
 swindle  
 syndicate

**T**  
 tainted evidence  
 take  
 taking the Fifth  
 tangible property  
 tax  
 tax costs  
 Tax Court  
 tax evasion  
 tax return  
 tax sale  
 temporary injunction  
 temporary insanity  
 tenancy  
 tenancy at sufferance  
 tenancy at will  
 tenancy by the entirety  
 tenancy in common  
 tenant  
 tender  
 tenement  
 tentative trust  
 tenure  
 term  
 testacy  
 testamentary  
 testamentary capacity  
 testamentary disposition  
 testamentary trust  
 testator  
 testatrix  
 testify  
 testimony  
 theft  
 third party  
 third-party beneficiary  
 30-day notice  
 three-day notice  
 three strikes, you're out  
 tide lands  
 time and materials  
 time is of the essence  
 timely  
 time served

title  
 title abstract  
 title insurance  
 title report  
 title search  
 toll  
 tontine  
 tools of trade  
 tort  
 tort claims act  
 tortfeasor  
 tortious  
 to wit  
 trade  
 trade fixture  
 trademark  
 trade name  
 trader  
 trade secret  
 transcript  
 transfer  
 transfer agent  
 transfer in contemplation of death  
 transferred intent  
 treason  
 treasury bill  
 treasury bond  
 treasury note  
 treasury stock  
 treaty  
 treble damages  
 trespass  
 trial  
 trial court  
 trial *de novo*  
 tribunal  
 trier of fact  
 triple net lease  
 T.R.O.  
 true bill  
 trust  
 trust deed  
 trustee  
 trustee in bankruptcy  
 trust fund

trustor  
 Truth in Lending Act  
 turn states' evidence  
 "Twinkie" defense

**U**  
 UCC-1  
 ultimate fact  
 ultrahazardous activity  
*ultra vires* (uhl-trah veye-rehz)  
 unclean hands  
 unconscionable  
 unconstitutional  
 under the influence  
 underwrite  
 underwriter  
 undisclosed principal  
 undivided interest  
 undue influence  
 unfair competition  
 unified estate and gift tax  
*Uniform Commercial Code*  
 unilateral contract  
 uninsured motorist clause  
 unissued stock  
 unjust enrichment  
 unlawful  
 unlawful assembly  
 unlawful detainer  
 unreasonable search and seizure  
 use  
 use tax  
 usurious  
 usury  
 utter  
*uxor*

**V**  
 vacate  
 vagrancy  
 valuable consideration  
 variance

vehicular manslaughter  
vendee  
vendor  
*venire* (ven-eer-ay)  
venue  
verdict  
verification  
vest  
vested  
vested remainder  
vexatious litigation  
vicarious liability  
vigilante  
viz  
void  
voidable  
void for vagueness

*voir dire* (vwahr [with a near-silent “r”] deer)  
voluntary bankruptcy  
voting trust

## W

waive  
waiver  
wanton  
ward  
warrant  
warranty  
warranty deed  
waste  
watered stock  
weight of evidence  
wet reckless  
whiplash

white collar crime  
widow  
widower  
widow’s election  
will  
will contest  
willful  
willfully  
wind up  
winding up  
wiretap  
withdrawal  
witness  
witness stand  
words of art  
Workers’ Compensation Acts  
Workmen’s Compensation  
work product

World Court  
writ  
writ of attachment  
writ of *coram nobis* (writ of core-uhm noh-bis)  
writ of execution  
writ of mandate (*mandamus*)  
wrongful death  
wrongful termination

## Y

your honor  
youthful offenders

## Z

zoning