Tier and Layer architecture

Differences

* Layer architecture describes the logical grouping of the functionality and components in an application, tiers describe the physical distribution of the components and functionality on separate servers => layer = how you structure your code, tiers = where your code runs
* You locate one or more layers on same tier = physical machine
* Layers have interaction rules between them, which refer to the way of communication and dependencies (top-down, strict, loose)

Similarities

* Both architectures have the same set of names (presentation, business, services, data), traditional 3-tier architecture
* Both architectures are used to increase maintainability, modularization and flexibility of the system
* Both architectures need communication protocols between their components

Auth in Layer architecture represent authorization which is usually places in the service layer, because you need to protect your services from performing unauthorized activities, especially data modification. The authorization is a cross cutting concern, the view, so basically the presentation layer needs to know what a user is allowed to do before it can build options and menus for display (this is an example). However, it is a good approach to push the authorization layer, as low at it is possible, because you need data related information to check if a user is authorized to do some actions.

Auth in tier architecture stands for authentication, checks the selected identity store to authenticate users based on roles.