

# **Legal Vocabulary**

### **Latin Dictionary!**

- actio: action
- actus reus: criminal act
- ad hoc: for this (special) purpose)
- ad idem: at one
- ad valorem: according to value
- affidavit: he asserts (statement of oath)
- bona fide: in good faith
- caveat: warning
- caveat emptor: let the buyer beware
- consensus (ad idem): agreement (in the same terms)
- culpa: fault
- *de facto:* in fact
- de jure: in law
- dissentiens: dissenting
- et al: and others
- ex curia: out of court
- ex turpi causa: from an evil cause no action arises
- factum: act or deed
- forum: court
- forum non conveniens: inconvenient forum
- habeas corpus: you must have the body
- *ibidem (ibid.):* in the same place
- in personam: against a person, personal
- *in rem:* against a thing, directed to an actual piece of property
- *infra:* below
- inter alia: among other things
- inter vivos: between living persons
- *intra vires:* within the powers
- *ipso facto:* by the very fact
- jus: right, law
- lex: law
- lis pendens: a pending law suit
- mens rea: guilty mind
- nemo dat quod non habet: no one gives what he does not have

- nihil (nil): nothing
- *nisi:* unless
- non est factum: it is not my deed
- nudum pactum: bare pact (promise without consideration)
- obiter dictum (plural dicta): thing said by the way
- onus: burden
- pacta sunt servanda: agreements should be kept
- per curiam: by the court
- prima facie: at first sight
- quantum meruit: how much he deserved
- ratio decidendi: reason for deciding
- res: thing, matter, substance
- retitutio in integrum: restoration to a former state
- sic: thus
- *simpliciter:* simply
- stare decisis: to stand by decisions
- subpoena: under penalty for testifying
- supra: above
- ultra vires: beyond the powers
- verbatim: word for word
- versus: against

#### **French Dictionary!**

- arraign (like arraignment): bring before a criminal court
- cestui que trust: beneficiary of a trust
- cestui que use: beneficiary of a use
- chose: thing
- chose in action: right of action
- escheat: reversion of property to the Crown
- *escrow*: condition



# **Legal Vocabulary**

- estop/estoppel: preclude, preclusion (of a party from making a particular assertion)
- *fee*: estate in land
- fee tail: estate in land limited to direct descendants
- feoffment: entitlement to land
- force majeure: main force, irresistible compulsion
- laches: delay
- *lien*: a security interest in property
- livery of seisin: delivery of possession
- misfeasance: wrongdoing
- nonfeasance: omission
- parol: oral
- *parole*: word of honour, hence release of prisoner on honour
- profit a prendre: right to profit from land
- pur autre vie: for another's life
- tort: civil wrong
- tortfeasor: one who commits a civil wrong

### Abbreviations!

- A.G.: Attorney General
- App.: Appeal
- App. Cas.: Appeal Cases
- Arb.: Arbitrator
- B.C.L.R.: British Columbia Law Reports
- B.C.R.: British Columbia Reports
- C.A.: Court of Appeal (Cour d'Appel in Quebec)
- C.J.: Chief Justice
- D.L.R.: Dominion Law Reports
- F.C.: Federal Court (Canada)
- Fed.: Federal
- Govt.: Government
- H.L.: House of Lords
- I.C.J.: International Court of Justice
- J.: Justice
- J.A.: Justice of Appeal
- P.C.: Privy Council
- Q.B.: Queen's Bench
- Q.C.: Queen's Counsel
- S.C.R.: Supreme Court Reports