SPANISH TRANSLATION OF FEDERAL COURT TERMS AND SIMPLE DEFINITION

Abstract of title: Resumen del registro de propiedad (A chronological summary of all official records and recorded documents affecting the title to a parcel of real property)

Acceptance: Aceptación (The taking and receiving of anything with the intention of retaining it)

Accomplice: Cómplice (1. A partner in a crime. 2. A person who knowingly and voluntarily participates with another in a criminal activity)

Acknowledgment: Conocimiento (1. A formal declaration before an authorized official by the person who executed an instrument that it is his/her free act and deed. 2. The certificate of the official on such instrument attesting that such execution was so acknowledged)

Acquiescence: asentir/no oponerse

Acquittal: Declaración de inocencia (Absolution or discharge of an obligation or liability. In criminal law, the finding of not guilty)

Action: Acción judicial (Case, cause, suit or controversy disputed or contested before a court)

Additur: Incremento en daños (An increase by a judge in the amount of damages awarded by a jury)

Adjudication: decision/fallo judicial (1. Giving or pronouncing a judgment or decree. 2. The judgment given)

Administrative agencies: Departamentos de Administración Publica (Agencies created by the legislative branch of government to administer laws pertaining to specific areas such as social security, taxes, transportation and labor)

Government Branches: Los poderes del Gobierno (Legistative: poder legislativo; Judicial: Poder judicial; Executive: poder ejecutivo)

Administrator: 1.Curador o guardián 2. Actuario (1. One who administers the estate of a person who dies without a will. 2. A court official.

Executor of a Will: Albacea (Albacea es el encargado por un testador o por un juez de cumplir la última voluntad y custodiar los bienes de una persona fallecida (el caudal hereditario). En el primer caso (cuando ha sido nombrado en el testamento) se denomina albacea testamentario, y

en el segundo, albacea dativo. En caso de ausencia de testamento y de orden judicial, se denomina albacea legítimo a aquel a quien compete por derecho cumplir la voluntad del testador. Finalmente, se llama albacea universal a quien tiene poder irrestricto para cumplir íntegramente todas las disposiciones de un testamento. También el albacea es considerado el ayudante inmediato que en un futuro estará preparado para ocupar el cargo de la persona a la que está referida dicha ocupación.

Admiralty law Also, maritime law: Ley Marítima (body of law relating to ships, shipping, marine commerce and navigation; the transportation of persons or property by sea, etc.

Admissible evidence: pruebas admisibles (Evidence that can be legally and properly introduced in a civil or criminal trial)

True bill: decisión del gran jurado

Vacate: anular

Vagrancy: vagabundear/vagancia

Destitute: indigente/carenciado/marginado

Admonish: amonestar/repreneder/advertir (To advise or caution. For example, the court may admonish counsel for improper actions)

Advance sheets: Publicación de decisions judiciales (Paperback pamphlets published by legal publishers periodically which contain cases. When there are a sufficient number of cases, advance sheets are replaced by a bound volume)

Adversary proceeding: proceder judicial entre partes opositoras (A proceeding having opposing parties, such as a plaintiff and a defendant)

Adverse possession: prescripcion adquisitiva (Method of acquiring real property under certain conditions by possession of same for a statutory period)

Affiant: declarante/deponente (The person who makes and subscribes to an affidavit)

Affidavit: declaracion jurada/afidavit (A voluntary, written, declaration of facts, confirmed by oath of the party making it before a person with authority to administer the oath)

Affirmation: declaración de veracidad/fidelidad (A solemn and formal declaration that an affidavit is true. This may be substituted for an oath in certain cases.

Affirmative defense: defensa por hechos impeditivos (A defense raised in a responsive pleading, for example, an answer, concerning a matter raised in a pleading; affirmative defenses include contributory negligence or estoppel in civil actions and in criminal cases insanity, duress or self-defense)

Estoppel: impedimento/prohibición

Duress: coacción/coerción

Affirmed: confirmada/apoyada (In the practice of appellate courts, the word means that the decision of the trial court is found to be correct on appeal)

Agreement: acuerdo/contrato

Mutual consent: comun acuerdo/mutuo consentimiento

Aid and Abet: asistir y contribuir (To actively, knowingly or intentionally assist another person in the commission or attempted commission of a crime)

Alien: Extranjero no ciudadano (A foreign-born person who has not qualified as a citizen of the country)

Allegation: alegato (A statement of the issues in a written document (a pleading) which a person is prepared to prove in court)

Allegations: Alegaciones/los presuntos malhechores (the alleged perpetrators)

Alteration: alteración/enmienda/tachadura (Changing or making different)

Alternative dispute resolution: resolucion alternativa a la disputa/mediacion/tercería (A process by which parties can settle a dispute without a full, formal trial. Methods include mediation, conciliation, arbitration and settlement, among others)

American Bar Association: asociación/colegio nacional de abogados de los EU (A national association of lawyers whose primary purpose is improvement of lawyers and the administration of justice)

American Law Reports: nombre propio, dejar igual (A publication which reports cases from all United States jurisdictions by subject matter)

Ancillary: suplementario (A proceeding which is auxiliary or subordinate to another proceeding

Annotations: acotaciones (Remarks, notes, case summaries or commentaries following a statute which describe interpretations of a statute or a case)

Answer: contestación a la demanda (A formal, written statement by the defendant in a lawsuit which answers each allegation contained in the complaint.

Answers to Interrogatories: respuesta a interrogatorios (A formal, written statement by a party to a lawsuit which answers each question or interrogatory propounded (asked) by the other party. These answers must be acknowledged before a notary public or other person authorized to take acknowledgments.

Antitrust acts: Leyes de libre competencia y antimonopolio (Federal and state statutes to protect trade and commerce from unlawful restraints, price discriminations, price fixing and monopolies)

Appeal: apelación (A request to a higher court to review a lower court decision)

Appeal Bond: bono de apelación (A guaranty by the appealing party which insures that certain court costs will be paid)

Appearance: comparecencia (The act of formally coming into court as a party to a suit either in person or through an attorney)

Appendix: apéndice (Supplementary materials added to the end of a Document)

Appellate court: tribunal de apelaciones (A court having jurisdiction to hear appeals and review a lower court's decisions)

Appellee: apelante (The party against whom an appeal is taken)

Arbitration: The hearing of a dispute by an impartial third person or persons whose award the parties agree to accept.

Arbitrator: arbitro/mediador (A private, disinterested person chosen by the parties in arbitration to hear evidence concerning the dispute and to make an award based on the evidence)

Arraignment: lectura de cargos y toma de declaración (The hearing at which the accused is brought before the court to enter a plea to the criminal charge in the indictment. A party may plead "guilty," "not guilty," or where permitted, "nolo contendere." See preliminary hearing.

Arrest: arresto (To take into custody by legal authority)

Assault: agresion (A threat to inflict injury on someone with an apparent ability to do so. Also, any intentional display of force that would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm)

Assignment: asignar/transferir (The transfer to another person of an interest in any property, real or personal)

Assumption of risk: asunción de riesgo (A doctrine under which a person may not recover for an injury received when a person has voluntarily exposed himself/herself to a known danger)

Attachment: embargo (Taking a person's property to satisfy a court ordered debt)

Wage attachment: embargo de haberes

Attorney-at-law: abogado (An advocate, counsel or official agent employed in preparing, managing and trying cases in the courts)

Attorney-in-fact: representante legal (A person who is not necessarily a lawyer authorized by another to act in his or her place, either for some particular purpose, as to do a specific act or for the transaction of business in general, not of legal character. This authority is conferred by an instrument in writing, called a "letter of attorney," or more commonly "power of attorney." You must be an attorney at law in order to represent another party in court.

Settlement: Convenio

Attorney of record: abogado constituido (The principal attorney in a lawsuit who signs all formal documents relating to the suit. In pro se cases, the party signs such documents)

Bail: fianza (Money or other security such as a bail bond provided to the court to temporarily allow a person's release from jail and assure their appearance in court. "Bail" and "Bond" are often used interchangeably)

Bail bond: certificado de fianza (An obligation signed by the accused to secure his or her presence at the trial. This obligation means that the accused may lose money by not appearing for the trial. Often referred to simply as "bond."

Bailiff: alguacil (An officer of the court responsible for keeping order, maintaining appropriate courtroom decorum and custody of the jury)

Bankruptcy: bancarrota/quiebra/insolvencia (Refers to statutes and judicial proceedings involving persons (de persona natural) or businesses that cannot pay their debts and seek the assistance of the court in getting a fresh start. Under the protection of the bankruptcy court, debtors may be released or "discharged" from their debts, perhaps by paying a portion of each debt. Bankruptcy judges preside over these proceedings. The person who owes the debts is called the debtor and the people or companies to whom the debtor owes money are called creditors)

Bankruptcy Judge: juez del tribunal de insolvencia (The judge who determines whether a debtor is entitled to a discharge in bankruptcy)

Bankruptcy law: ley de insolvencia (The area of federal law dealing with bankrupt persons or businesses)

Bar: barra/colegio de abogados/foro 1. Historically, the partition separating the general public from the space occupied by the judges, lawyers and other participants in a trial. 2. More commonly, the term means the whole body of lawyers.

Bar examination: examen estatal para licenciatura (A state examination taken by prospective lawyers in order to be admitted and licensed to practice law)

Battery: violencia/aggression con lesions (A beating or wrongful physical violence. The threat to use force is an "assault;" the actual use of force is a battery, which usually includes an assault)

Bench: estrado (The seat occupied by the judge. More broadly, the court itself)

Bench trial: juicio ante el juez (Trial without a jury in which a judge decides the facts. Also known as court trial.)

Bench warrant: orden de arresto emitida por un juez (An order issued by a judge for the arrest of a person)

Beneficiary: beneficiario/heredero (Someone named to receive property or benefits in a will. In a trust, a person who is to receive benefits from the trust)

Bequeath: legar (To give a gift to someone through a will)

Bequests: legados (Gifts made in a will)

Best evidence: pruebas originales o de primeros (Primary evidence; the best evidence available. Short of this is "secondary." For example, an original letter is "best evidence," while a photocopy of a letter is "secondary evidence."

Beyond a reasonable doubt: Mas allá de duda razonable o fundamentada (The burden of proof that the State must establish in a criminal action)

Bond: certificado de fianza (See bail bond. A written agreement by which a person insures he/she will pay a certain sum of money if he/she does not perform certain duties)

Bound supplement: anexo encuadernado (A supplement to a book or books which updates the material in permanent form. See pocket part)

Booking: fichado (The process of photographing, fingerprinting and recording identifying data of a suspect. This process follows the arrest)

Breach: incumplimiento/quebrantamiento

Brief: escrito (A written argument by counsel or a pro se litigant arguing a case that contains a summary of the facts of the case, pertinent laws and an argument of how the law applies to the fact. Also called a memorandum of law)

Burden of proof: la carga de la prueba (In the law of evidence, the necessity or duty of affirmatively proving a fact or facts in dispute on an issue raised between the parties in a lawsuit. The responsibility of proving a point)

Business bankruptcy: insolvencia empresarial (A proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code filed by a business entity.

Bylaws: leyes/estatutos (Rules or laws adopted by an association or corporation that governs its actions)

Capital crime: crimen castigable con pena de muerte (A crime punishable by death)

Life sentence: encarcelamiento de por vida/cadena perpetua

Calendar: agenda del dia (A list of cases scheduled for hearing in court)

Canons of ethics: cánones de ética profesional (Standards of ethical conduct for attorneys)

Capacity: capacidad (Having legal authority or mental ability. Being of sound mind)

Caption: encabezado (Heading or introductory part of a pleading)

Case law: Jurisprudencia (Law established by previous decisions of appellate or district courts)

Cases: casos (General term for an action, cause, suit or controversy, at law or in equity.

Cause: causa/querella/litigio (A lawsuit, litigation or action. Any question, civil or criminal, litigated or contested before a court of justice)

Cause of action: fundamentos para la causa (The fact or facts which give a person a right to relief in court)

Caveat: precaucion/aviso (A warning; a note of caution)

Censure: censura (An official reprimand or condemnation of an attorney. See disbarment or suspension)

Certiorari: Exhorto (A writ of review issued by a higher court to a lower court. A means of getting an appellate court to review a lower court's decision. If an appellate court grants a writ of certiorari, it agrees to take the appeal. Sometimes referred to as "granting cert.")

Challenge: oponerse (An objection, such as when an attorney objects at a hearing to the seating of a particular person on a civil or criminal jury.

Challenge for cause: eximición con fundamento (A request from a party to a judge that a prospective juror not be allowed to be a member of a jury because of specified causes or reasons. See peremptory challenge)

Chambers: despacho del juez (A judge's private office. A hearing in chambers takes place in the judge's office outside of the presence of the jury and the public)

Change of venue: cambio de jurisdiccion (Moving a lawsuit or criminal trial to another place for trial. See venue)

Charge, jury: instrucciones al jurado (The judge's instructions to the jury concerning the law that applies to the facts of the case on trial)

Chief Judgez; juez president (Presiding or administrative judge in a court)

Chattel: pertencencias (An article of personal property)

Child: Menor/niño/niña (Offspring of parentage; progeny, "issue") Hijo/hija

Chronological: cronológico (Arranged in the order in which events happened; according to date, from the first event to the last event)

Circumstantial evidence: indicios (All evidence except eyewitness testimony) for example physical evidence, such as fingerprints, from which an inference can be drawn.

Trace: rastrear/indicios

Citation: citar/citatorio (1. The written reference to legal authorities,precedents, reported cases, etc., in briefs orother legal documents. 2. A writ or orderissued by a court commanding the person named therein to appear at the time and place named)

Citators (A set of books which provides the subsequent history of reported decisions through a form of abbreviations or words)

Civil: privado (Relating to private rights and remedies sought by civil actions as contrasted with criminal proceedings)

Civil action: demanda (An action brought by a party to enforce or protect private rights)

Civil law: derecho civil/derecho privado (Law based on a series of written codes or laws)

Civil procedure: sistema procesal civil (The rules and processes by which a civil case is tried and appealed, including the preparations for trial, the rules of evidence and trial conduct and the procedure for pursuing appeals. In the Northern District, parties must follow both the federal and local rules of civil procedure)

Claim 1: acta (A cause of action in a law suit) 2. A debt owing by a debtor to another person or business.

Class action: demanda colectiva (A lawsuit brought by one or more persons on behalf of a larger group. Individuals seeking to maintain a class action must file a formal motion requesting certification of the class; a judge may then choose to certify the proposed class pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 25. Clean air acts Federal and state environmental statutes enacted to regulate and control air pollution)

Clear and convincing evidence: pruebas claras y contundentes (Standard of proof used in certain lawsuits and in regulatory agency cases. It governs the amount of proof that must be offered in order for the plaintiff to win the case)

Clerk of Court: actauario/asistente al juez Administrator or chief clerical officer of the court.

Closing argument: declaracion de cierre/discurso final/alegato final (The closing statement, by counsel or a pro se litigant, to the trier of facts after all parties have concluded their presentation of evidence at trial.Code of Federal Regulations ,CFR, An annual publication which contains the cumulative executive agency regulations.

Code of Professional Responsibility: normativas de responsabilidad para profesionales (The rules of conduct that govern the legal profession)

Codicil: anexo/codicilo (An amendment to a will)

Collateral: aval

Estoppel Doctrine: doctrina de prohibicion de aplicaciones distintas (which provides that a court ruling concerning a disputed set of facts in one action is binding on those same parties in future proceedings against each other)

Commit: remitir/hospitalizar/internar/encarcelar (To send a person to prison, asylum or reformatory by a court order)

Common law: derecho anglosajon (Law established by subject matter heard in earlier cases. Also called case law)

Commutation: reducción de pena (The reduction of a sentence, as from death to life imprisonment)

Comparative negligence: determinacion de negligencia por analisis comparativo (The rule under which negligence is measured by percentage, (and damages are diminished) in proportion to the amount of negligence attributable to the person seeking recovery)

Complainant: denuncia/levanter un acta (The party who complains or sues; one who applies to the court for legal redress. See plaintiff)

Complaint: acta/denuncia (1. The legal document that usually begins a civil lawsuit. It states the facts and identifies the action the court is asked to take. 2. Formal written charge that a person has committed a criminal offense)

Conciliation: conciliación (A form of alternative dispute resolution in which the parties bring their dispute to a neutral third party, who helps lower tensions, improve communications and explore possible solutions. Conciliation is similar to mediation, but it may be less formal)

Concurrent sentences: penas simultaneas o cuncurrentes (Sentences for more than one crime that are to be served at the same time, rather than one after the other. (Compare with cumulative or consecutive sentences.)

Condemnation: expropiación (The legal process by which the government takes private land for public use, paying the owners a fair price. See eminent domain)

Conformed copy: copia fiel (An exact copy of a document that could not be or was not copied. For example, a written signature may be replaced on a conformed copy with a notation that it was signed by the parties)

Consecutive sentences: sentencias consecutivas (Successive sentences, one beginning at the expiration of another, imposed against a person convicted of two or more crimes. See cumulative or concurrent sentences)

Consent: consentimiento (Agree to voluntarily accept the wish of another)

Conservatorship: curaduria (Legal right given to a person to manage the property and financial affairs of a person deemed incapable of doing that for himself or herself. See guardianship)

Consideration: precio acordado (The price bargained for and paid for a promise, goods or real estate)

Constitution: Constitución (The fundamental law of a nation or state which establishes the character and basic principles of the government)

Constitutional law: Leyes de las constituciones de los EEUU (Law set forth in the Constitution of the United States and the state constitutions)

Consumer bankruptcy: bancarrota de persona natural (A proceeding under the Bankruptcy Code filed by an individual (or husband and wife) who is not in business)

Contempt of court: desacato (Willful disobedience of a judge's command or of an official court order)

Continuance: aplazamiento (Postponement of a legal proceeding to a later date. Also, adjournment)

Contract: contrato/acuerdo (An agreement between two or more persons which creates an obligation to do or not to do a particular thing either orally or in writing)

Contributory negligence: negligencia que contribuye al daño (The rule of law under which an act or omission of plaintiff is a contributing cause of injury and a possible bar to a complete recovery.

Tax retentions: aportes contributivos/a. impositivos

Conveyance: transferencia (Instrument transferring title of an object from one person or group of persons to another)

Conviction: fallo condenatorio (A judgment of guilt against a criminal defendant)

Corroborating evidence: pruebas suplementarias (Supplementary evidence that tends to strengthen or confirm the initial evidence)

Counsel: consejero (A legal adviser; a term used to refer to lawyers in a case)

Counterclaim: contrademanda (A claim made by the defendant in a civil lawsuit against the plaintiff)

Court: tribunal/corte (A body in government to which the administration of justice is delegated)

Court-appointed attorney: abogado asignado por el juez (Attorney appointed by the court to represent a defendant, usually with respect to criminal charges and without the defendant having to pay for the representation)

Court costs: gastos de procesamiento judicial/Costas (The expenses of prosecuting or defending a lawsuit, other than attorney-fees. An amount of money may be awarded to the successful party (and may be recoverable from the losing party) as reimbursement for court costs)

Court of original jurisdiction: Juzgado de jurisdicción original (A court where a matter is initiated and heard in the first instance; a trial court)

Court reporter: official de actas/estenógrafo (A person who transcribes by shorthand or stenographically takes down testimony during court proceedings, a deposition or other trial related proceedings)

Court rules: Medidas Tribunalicias (Regulations governing practice and procedure in the various courts)

Creditor: acreedor (A person to whom a debt is owed by another)

Crime: delito/crimen (An act in violation of the penal laws of a state or the United States. A positive or negative act in violation of penal law)

Criminal justice system: sistema procesal penal (The network of courts and tribunals which deal with criminal law and its enforcement.

Cross-claim: querella contra coacusado (A pleading which asserts a claim arising out of the same subject matter as the original complaint against a co-party. For example, a co-defendant may file a cross-claim against another codefendant for contribution for any damages assessed against the cross claimant)

Cross-examination: interrogatorio opuesto (The questioning of a witness produced by the other side)

Cumulative sentences: sentencias acumuladas (Sentences for two or more crimes to run consecutively, rather than concurrently/consecutive sentences)

In Custody: detenido (Detaining of a person by lawful process or authority to assure his or her appearance to any hearing; the jailing or imprisonment of a person convicted of a crime)

Damages: resarcimiento/indemnizacion/daños (Money awarded to a person injured by the wrongful act of another person)

Debtor: deudor (One who owes a debt to another; a person filing
for relief under the Bankruptcy Code)

Decision: decision judicial (The opinion of the court in concluding a case at law)

Declaratory judgment: determinación de derechos (A statutory remedy for judicial determination of a controversy where a party is in doubt about his/her legal rights)

Decree: decreto/sentencia (An order of the court. A final decree is one that fully and finally disposes of the
litigation. See interlocutory.

Defamation: difamación (That which tends to injure a person's reputation. See libel and slander)

Default: incumplimiento (Failure of the defendant to appear and answer the summons and complaint)

Default judgment: fallo en incomparecencia (A judgment entered against a party who fails to appear in court or respond to the charges)

Defendant: demandado/acusado/imputado (The person defending a suit)

Defense of property: en defense de bienes propios (Affirmative defense in criminal law or tort law where force was used to protect one's property)

Deficient: deficiente (Incomplete; defective; not sufficient in quantity or force)

Defunct: extinto/caduco (A corporation no longer operative; having ceased to exist)

Demurrer: Excepción perentoria (A pleading filed by the defendant which alleges that the complaint as filed is not sufficient to require an answer. Excepcion perentoria, cuestacion de derecho; alegacion que admite los hechos alegados por la parte contraria, pero niega que constituyen causa suficiente de accion)

Dependent: dependiente/desamparado (One who derives existence and support from another)

Deposition: deposición/declaracion extrajudicial (Testimony of a witness or a party taken under oath outside the courtroom, the transcript of which may become a part of the court's file)

Digests: abstractos (Legal volumes that contain summaries of cases arranged alphabetically by topic)

Direct evidence: prueba de primeros (Among other things, proof of facts by witnesses who saw acts done or heard words spoken)

Direct examination: interrogatorio directo (The first questioning of witnesses by the party on whose behalf they are called)

Directed verdict: See judgment as a matter of law.

Disbarment: revocar la licencia (Form of discipline of a lawyer resulting in the loss (often permanently) of that lawyer's right to practice law. See censure or suspension)

Discharge: librar (The name given to the bankruptcy court's formal discharge of a debtor's debts)

Disclaim: renunciar (To refuse a gift made in a will)

Discovery: revelación de pruebas (The name given pretrial devices for obtaining facts and information about the case. See Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, FRCP, 26-37)

Dismissal: desestimación (The termination of a lawsuit either with or without prejudice)

Dissent: disentir (To disagree. An appellate court opinion setting forth the minority view and outlining the disagreement of one or more judges with the decision of the majority)

Dissolution: disolución (The termination; process of dissolving or winding up something)

Diversity of citizenship: residencia distinta de las partes (The condition when the party on one side of a lawsuit is a citizen of one state and the other party is a citizen of another state; such cases may be under the jurisdiction of federal courts)

Diversion: programa alternativo de rehabilitacion y/o resarcimiento (The process of removing some minor criminal, traffic or juvenile cases from the full judicial process, on the condition that the accused undergo some sort of rehabilitation or make restitution for damages)

Docket: lista de causas (An abstract or listing of all pleadings or the documents filed in a case; the book containing such entries; "trial docket" is a list or calendar of cases to be tried in a certain term)

Docket control: sistema de control (A system for keeping track of deadlines and court dates for both litigation and non-litigation matters)

Domicile: domicilio (The place where a person has a permanent home to which he/she intends to return)

Double jeopardy: doble enjuiciamiento (Putting a person on trial more than once for the same crime. It is forbidden by the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Due process of law: proceso debido (The right of all persons to receive the guarantees and safeguards of the law and the judicial process. It includes such constitutional requirements as adequate notice, assistance of counsel and the rights to remain silent, to a speedy and public trial, to an impartial jury and to confront and secure witnesses)

Eminent Domain: derecho de expropiación (The power of the government to take private property for public use through condemnation)

En Banc: En Banc (All the judges of a court sitting together. Appellate courts can consist of a dozen or more judges, but often they hear cases in panels of three judges. If a case is heard or reheard by the full court, it is heard "en banc")
Encyclopedia: encyclopedia (A book or series of books arranged alphabetically by topics containing information on specific areas of law)

Enjoining: ordenar/mandar/imponer (An order by the court telling a person to stop performing a specific act)

Entity: entidad (A legally recognized organization)

Entrapment: instigación/inducción (The act of inducing a person to commit a crime so that a criminal charge will be brought against him.

Environmental Protection Agency EPA: departamento de protección ambiental (A federal agency created to permit coordinated and effective governmental action to preserve the quality of the environment)

Equal Protection of the Law: protección equitativa por la ley (The guarantee in the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that all persons be treated equally by the law)

Equity: equidad (Justice administered according to fairness; the spirit of fairness in dealing with other persons)

Escheat: privación de propiedad por falta de herederos (The process by which a deceased person's property goes to the state if no heir can be found)

Escrow: fideicomiso (Money or a written instrument such as a deed that, by agreement between two parties, is held by a neutral third party (held in escrow) until all conditions of the agreement are met.

Esquire: abogado/licenciado en derecho (In the United States the title commonly appended after the name of an attorney. Abbreviated:Esq.)

Estate: patrimonio (A person's property)

Estate tax: Taza de sucesion (Generally, a tax on the privilege of transferring property to others after a person's death. In addition to federal estate taxes, many states have their own estate taxes)

Estoppel: prohibición (An impediment that prevents a person from asserting or doing something contrary to his own previous assertion or act)

Ethics: ética (Of or relating to moral action and conduct; professionally right; conforming to professional standards)

Evidence: evidencia/pruebas (Information presented in testimony or in documents that is used to persuade the fact finder (judge or jury) to decide the case for one side or the other.

Exceptions: excepciones (Declarations by either side in a civil or criminal case reserving the right to appeal a judge's ruling on a motion. Also, in regulatory cases, objections by either side to points made by the other side or to rulings by the agency or one of its hearing officers.

Exclusionary Rule: Exclusión de pruebas (The rule preventing illegally obtained evidence from being used in any trial)

Execute: ejecutar (To complete; to sign; to carry out according to its terms)

Executor: albacea (A personal representative, named in a will, who administers an estate)

Exempt property: bienes exemptos (All the property of a debtor which is not attachable under the Bankruptcy Code or the state statute)

Exhibit: prueba material (A document or other item introduced as evidence during a trial or hearing)

Exonerate: exonerar (Removal of a charge, responsibility or duty)

Ex parte: Ex parte/con comparecencia de una sola parte/de emergencia (On behalf of only one party, without notice to any other party. For example, a request for a search warrant is an ex parte proceeding, since the person subject to the search is not notified of the proceeding and is not present at the hearing.

Ex parte proceeding: proceder ex parte (Actions taken by or orders made by a court upon the application or petition of one party without notice or hearing to other interested parties)

Extenuating circumstances: circunstancias atenuantes (Circumstances which render a crime less aggravated, heinous or reprehensible than it would be otherwise)

Heinous: atroz/inhumano

Reprehensible: censurable/reprensible

Expungement: eliminar/expurgar (The process by which a record is destroyed or sealed)

Extradition: extradición (The surrender of an accused criminal by one state to the jurisdiction of another)

Fair market value: valor equitativo de mercado (The value for which a reasonable seller would sell an item of property and for which a reasonable buyer would buy it.

Family law: derecho de familia (Those areas of the law pertaining to families, i.e., marriage, divorce, child custody, juvenile, paternity, etc)

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) A federal agency which regulates air commerce to promote aviation safety.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) A federal agency which investigates all violations of federal laws.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) A federal agency which regulates interstate and foreign communications by wire and radio.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) A federal agency which insures deposits in banking institutions in the event of financial failure.

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service: A federal agency which provides mediators to assist in labor-management disputes.

Federal Register: A daily publication which contains federal administrative rules and regulations.

Federal Reporters ("F.," "F.2d" or "F.3d") Books which contain decisions of the Circuit Courts throughout the country.

Federal Supplement ("F. Supp.") Books which contain decisions of the District Courts throughout the country.

Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA tax) A tax levied on employers based upon employee wages paid.

Felony: delito grave/felonía (A serious criminal offense. Under federal law, any offense punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year)

Fiduciary: entidad fiduciaria (A person or institution who manages money or property for another and who must exercise a standard of care imposed by law, i.e., personal representative or executor of an estate, a trustee, etc.)

File: archivar/levantar/entrar (To place a paper in the official custody of the clerk of court/court administrator to enter into the files or records of a case.

Filing Fee: taza/timbrado (Frequired for filing various documents. In civil actions, the filing fee is $120.00. Applications for a writ of habeas corpus require a filing fee of $5.00)

Finding: decision judicial (conclusion by a judge or regulatory agency on issues of fact. Also, a conclusion by a jury regarding a fact)

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): alimentos y medicamentos (A federal agency which sets safety and quality standards for food, drugs, cosmetics and household substances)

Foreclosure: embargo/ejecución de garantia hipotecaria (A court proceeding upon default in a mortgage to vest title in the mortgagee)

Forfeiture: decomiso/incautación (A cancellation. A legal action whereby a person loses all interest in the property)

Fraud: maniobra delictiva/fraude (A false representation of a matter of fact which is intended to deceive another)

Garnishment: incautar/embargar haberes (A legal proceeding in which a debtor's money, in the possession of another (called the garnishee) is applied to the debts of the debtor, such as when an employer garnishes a debtor's wages)

Lien: gravamen

Identity theft: Usurpacion de nombre: Usurpacion de nombre o identidad es cuando el nombre de una persona es usado maliciosamente para la designacion de cosas o personajes de fantasía. Es una violacion al Derecho de Identidad.

Uso indebido de nombre: Uso indebido de nombre es por ejemplo poner el apellido de un doctor en una receta sin su permiso.

Criminal Impersonation: Dar un nombre falso: Dar un nombre falso es cuando un policía le pregunta a una persona como se llama y la persona responde dándole un nombre que en realidad no es el verdadero. Dar un nombre incompleto o cambiar el orden de los nombres y/o apellidos a proposito y maliciosamente es dar un nombre falso.

Fraud: estafa

Embezzlement: Desfalco

Forgery: Falsificación de documentos (la falsificación es, además de la simulación total o parcial de un documento o de la realidad jurídica que refleja, toda actuación o intervención material o intelectual que, incidiendo en su contenido, sentido o integridad, intencionadamente configure una situación jurídica que no se corresponde con la realidad o altere su relevancia o eficacia, o lo atribuya a persona u organo que no haya intervenido en su creación, contenido o firma (SAP GRANADA, sección 1, 25/10/2004).

Suplantación de identidad: se usa en el mundo cibernetico y es cuando se hace pasar por otro en redes sociales de internet para llevar a cabo acoso, bullying, humillacion, etc. Es una violacion al derecho al honor, la intimidad y a la propia imagen.

General Jurisdiction: jurisdicción amplia (Refers to courts that have no limit on the types of criminal and civil cases over which they may preside)

Good time: buen comportamiento (A reduction in sentenced time in prison as a reward for good behavior. It usually is one third to one half of the maximum sentence)

Government Printing Office (GPO): Departamento nacional de publicaciones (The federal agency in charge of printing, binding and selling of all government publications)

Grand Jury: Gran Jurado (A jury of inquiry whose duty it is to receive complaints and accusations in criminal matters and, if appropriate, issue a formal indictment)

Grantor: donante/otorgante (The person who sets up a trust. Also referred to as "settlor")

Grievance: agravio/reclamo (1. An injury, injustice or wrong which gives ground for complaint; 2. In labor law, a complaint filed by an employee regarding working conditions to be resolved by procedural machinery provided in the union contract)

Guardian: tutor (A person appointed by law to assume responsibility for incompetent adults or minor children) tutor tiene tutela/padres tienen tenencia o custodia MX

Guardianship: tutela (Legal right given to a person to be responsible for the food, housing, health care and other necessities of a person deemed incapable of providing these necessities for himself or herself)

Habeas corpus: Habeas corpus (The name of a writ having for its object to bring a person before a court)

Harmless error: error inocuo (An error committed during a trial that was corrected or was not serious enough to affect the outcome of a trial and therefore was not sufficiently harmful (prejudicial) to be reversed on appeal)

Headnote: encabezado (A brief summary of a legal rule or significant facts in a case, which, along with other headnotes, precedes the printed opinion in reports)

Hearing: audiencia (A formal proceeding (generally less formal than a trial) with issues of law or of fact to be heard. Hearings are used extensively by legislative and administrative agencies.

Hearsay: declaración de terceros (Statements by a witness who did not see or hear the incident in question but heard about it from someone else. Hearsay may not be admissible.

Hostile witness: testigo adverso (A witness whose testimony is not favorable to the party who calls the person as a witness. A hostile witness may be asked leading questions and may be cross-examined by the party who calls him or her to the stand.

Hung jury: jurado en desacuerdo (A jury whose members cannot agree upon a verdict)

Immigrants: inmigrantes (Persons who come into a foreign country or region to live.

Immigration: inmigración (The entry of foreign persons into a country to live permanently.

Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS): departamento de iinmigracin y naturalizacion (A federal agency which regulates immigration and naturalization of aliens)

Immunity: inmunidad (A grant that assures someone that he/she will not face prosecution in return for providing evidence against another)

Impeachment: juicio por improcedencia (A criminal proceeding against a public official)

Impeachment of a witness: impugner un testigo (An attack on the credibility (believability) of a witness, through evidence introduced for that purpose)
Implied contract: acuerdo implícito (A contract not created or evidenced by the explicit agreement of the parties but one inferred by law)

In forma pauperis: In forma pauperis (As a poor person; a pauper)

Inadmissible; no admissible (That which, under the rules of evidence, cannot be admitted or received as evidence)

Incapacity: incapacidad (Lack of legal ability to act; disability)

Incompetence: no competente (lack of adequate power or authority)

Incarceration: encarcelamiento (Imprisonment in a jail, prison or penitentiary.

Incompetent: incompetente (One who lacks ability, legal qualification or fitness to manage his/her own affairs.

Indeterminate sentence: sentencia indeterminada (A sentence of imprisonment to a specified minimum and maximum period of time, specifically authorized by statute, subject to termination by a parole board or other authorized agency after the prisoner has served the minimum term)

Indictment: sumario/presentacion de cargos por el gran jurado (A written accusation by a grand jury charging a person with a felony. See information)

Indigent: indigente (Needy or impoverished)

Initial appearance: comparecencia inicial (The defendant comes before a judge within hours of the arrest to determine whether or not there is probable cause for his or her arrest)

Information: presentacion de cargos por la fiscalia (Accusatory document, filed by a prosecutor, detailing misdemeanor charges against a party)

Infraction: faltas/infracciones (A violation of law not punishable by imprisonment. Minor traffic offenses generally are considered infractions)

Inheritance tax: impuesto/taza de sucesion (A tax on property that an heir or beneficiary under a will receives from a deceased person's estate. The heir or beneficiary pays this tax)

Injunction: interdicto (An order or remedy issued by the court at the request of the complaining party, which forbids another party to do some act which he/she is threatening or attempting to do. Conversely, it may require a person to perform an act which he/she is obligated to perform but refuses to do)

Insolvent:/en bancarrota/insolvente (When the total debt of an entity is greater than all of its property)

Instructions: instrucciones (Judge's explanation to the jury before it begins deliberations of the questions it must answer and the applicable law governing the case. (Also referred to as "charge")

Intentional tort: agravio intencional (Wrong perpetrated by one who intends to break the Law)

Interlocutory: provisional (Temporary; provisional; interim; not final)

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): direccion general impositiva de los EEUU (The federal agency which administers the tax laws of the United States)

Interrogatories: interrogatorios (A set or series of written questions propounded to a party, witness or other person having information or interest in a case; a discovery device)

Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC): commission interestatal de comercio de los EEUU (A federal agency which regulates all transportation in interstate commerce)

Intervention: intervención de un tercero (An action by which a third person who may be affected by a lawsuit is permitted to become a party to the suit)

Involuntary bankruptcy: bancarrota involuntaria (A proceeding initiated by creditors requesting the bankruptcy court to place a debtor in liquidation)

Issue: cuestión/asunto/emitir (1. The disputed point in a disagreement between parties in a lawsuit. 2. To send out officially, as in to issue an order)

Joinder: litisconsorcio (joint litigation)

Joint and several liability: responsabilidad civil mancomunada (A legal doctrine that makes each of the parties who are responsible for an injury, liable for all the damages awarded in a lawsuit if the other parties responsible cannot pay)

Joint tenancy: titularidad mancomunada (A form of legal co-ownership of property (also known as survivorship). At the death of one co-owner, the surviving co-owner becomes sole owner of the property. Tenancy by the entirety is a special form of joint tenancy between a husband and wife.
Judge: A presiding officer of the court.

Judgment: fallo/decision judicial/sentencia dictada (The official and authentic decision of a court of justice upon the rights and claims of parties to an action submitted to the court for determination. See summary judgment.

Judgment as a matter of law: veredicto sin conocimiento de prueba especifica (In a case in which the plaintiff has failed to present on the facts of his case proper evidence for jury consideration, the trial judge may order the entry of a verdict without allowing the jury to consider it)

Judgment debtor: deudor … (One who owes money as a result of a judgment in favor of a creditor)

Judicial lien: embargo judicial (A lien obtained by judgment or other judicial process against a debtor)

Judicial review: revision judicial (The authority of a court to review the official actions of other branches of government. Also, the authority to declare unconstitutional the actions of other branches)

Judiciary: sistema de justicia/poder judicial (The branch of government invested with judicial power to interpret and apply the law; the court system; the body of judges)

Jurat: jurat/ certificado emitido por funcionario competente que atestigua que un documento ha sido otorgado por quien lo firma (Certificate of person and officer before whom a writing is sworn to)

Jurisdiction, Subject Matter: jurisdiccion en la materia (The power or authority of a court to hear and try a case)

Jurisprudence: jurisprudencia (The study of law and the structure of the legal system)

Jury: jurado/miembros del jurado (A certain number of men and women selected according to law and sworn to try a question of fact or indict a person for public offense.

Jury Administrator: elector de jurado (The court officer responsible for choosing the panel of persons to serve as potential jurors for a particular court term)

Justice of the Peace: Juez de paz

Justiciable: cuestion idonea (Issues and claims capable of being properly examined in court)

Key number system: sistema de numeracion por tema (A research aid developed by West Publishing Company which classifies digests of cases into various law topics and subtopics which are given paragraph numbers called "Key Numbers." Each key number for a given topic helps the researcher quickly find all references to the legal matter being researched)

Lapsed gift: legado caduco (A gift made in a will to a person who has died prior to the will-maker's death)

Larceny: hurto/latrocinio (Obtaining property by fraud or deceit)

Law: derecho (The combination of those rules and principles of conduct promulgated by legislative authority, derived from court decisions and established by local custom)

Law Blank: formulario official (A printed legal form available for preparing documents)

Law Clerk: actuario (A lawyer (or law school student) employed to do legal research)

Lawsuit: querella (An action or proceeding in a civil court; term used for a suit or action between two parties in a court of law)

Leading question: pregunta tendenciosa (A question that suggests the answer desired of the witness. A party generally may not ask one's own witness leading questions. Leading questions may be asked only of hostile witnesses and on cross-examination)

Legal aid: asistencia legal descontada (Professional legal services available to persons or organizations unable to afford such services)

Legal process: procedimiento legal (A formal paper that is legally valid; something issuing from the court, usually a command such as a writ or mandate.

Legal texts: Books that cover specific areas of the law, usually dealing with a single topic.
Legislation: legislatura (The act of giving or enacting laws; the power to make laws via legislation in contrast to court-made laws)

Legitimate: legitimo (That which is legal, lawful, recognized by law or according to law)

Leniency: indulgencia (Recommendation for a sentence less than the maximum allowed)

Liable: legalmente responsable (Legally responsible)

Libel: difamacion escrita (Published defamation which tends to injure a person's reputation)

Licensing boards: entes de matriculacion (State agencies created to regulate the issuance of licenses, i.e., to contractors, cosmetologists, realtors, etc.

Lien: embargo/gravamen (An encumbrance or legal burden upon property.

Limine: at/from the beginning See "in limine" in Foreign Words Glossary.

Limited Jurisdiction: jurisdicción limitada (Refers to courts that are limited in the types of criminal and civil cases they may hear, For example, federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction courts)

Litigant: litigante (A party to a lawsuit)

Litigation: litigio (A lawsuit; a legal action, including all proceedings therein)

Living trust: fideicomiso en vida (A trust set up and in effect during the lifetime of the grantor. Also called inter vivos trust.)

Loose-leaf services: Loose-leaf replacement pages provided by a publisher in areas of the law where changes occur at a rapid rate.

Magistrate: Juez (See U.S. Magistrate Judge)

Malfeasance: actividad ilicita (The commission of an unlawful act)

Malicious prosecution: procedimiento judicial ilegitima (An action instituted with intention of injuring the defendant and without probable cause and which terminates in favor of the person prosecuted)

Malpractice: mala paxis (Any professional misconduct)

Marshal: alguacil (In federal court, the individual that serves process on behalf of an indigent party to an action.

Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory: diccionario de derecho Martindale Hullell (A publication consisting of several volumes which contains names, addresses, specialties and rating of United States lawyers; also includes digests of state and foreign statutory law)

Mediation: mediacion (A form of alternative dispute resolution in which the parties bring their dispute to a neutral third party, who helps them agree on a settlement.

Memorandum of law: memorandum de derechos (A legal brief in support of the position taken by a party in an action)

Merger: fusion (The absorption of one thing or right into another)

Minor: menor de edad (A person under the age of legal competence)

Minute book A book maintained in state court that contains minute entries of all hearings and trial conducted by the judge.

Minutes: minutas (Memorandum of a transaction or proceeding)

Miranda warning: aviso de Miranda (Requirement that police tell a suspect in their custody of his or her constitutional rights before they question him or her. So named as a result of the Miranda v. Arizona ruling by the United States Supreme Court)

Misdemeanor: delito menos grave (A criminal offense lesser than a felony and generally punishable by fine or by imprisonment of less than 1 year)

Misfeasance: ejecución ilegal de un procedimiento lícito (Improper performance of an act which a person might lawfully do)

Mistrial: juicio nulo (An invalid trial, caused by fundamental error. When a mistrial is declared, the trial must start again from the selection of the jury)

Mitigating circumstances: circunstancias atenuantes/c. mitigantes (Those which do not constitute a justification or excuse for an offense but which may be considered as reasons for reducing the degree of blame)

Mitigation: mitigación (A reduction, abatement or diminution imposed by law)

Money laundering: lavado de dinero

Moot: improcedente (A moot case or a moot point is one not subject to a judicial determination because it involves an abstract question or a controversy that has not yet actually arisen or has already passed. Mootness usually refers to a court's refusal to consider a case because the issue involved has been resolved prior to the court's decision, leaving nothing that would be affected by the court's decision)

Motion: moción (An application made to a court or judge by party which requests a ruling or order in favor of the applicant or "movant."

Motion in Limine: Mocion previa al juicio (A motion made prior to trial by counsel or the pro se litigant requesting that information which might be prejudicial not be allowed in a case)

Mutual assent: mutuo consentimiento (A meeting of the minds; agreement)

National Labor Relations Board (NLRB): consejo nacional de relaciones de trabajo (A federal agency which remedies unfair labor practices by employers and labor organizations.

Naturalization: Naturalización (Process by which a person acquires nationality after birth and becomes entitled to privileges of citizenship in a country other than that in which such person was born)

Negligence: Negligencia (Failure to use care which a reasonable and prudent person would use under similar circumstances)

No Bill: insuficiente para sumario (This phrase, endorsed by a grand jury on the written indictment submitted to it for its
approval, means that the evidence was found insufficient to indict)

No-contest: (Clause Language in a will that provides that a person who makes a legal challenge to the will's validity will be disinherited; clausula que indica que el que disputare un testamento no puede heredar/queda desheredado)

No-fault Proceedings: fallo sin decision de falta/culpa (A civil case in which parties may resolve their dispute without a formal finding of error or fault)

Noise Control Act: Ley de regulación de ruido ambiental (A act which gives government agencies the right to promulgate standards and regulations relating to abatement of noise emissions, i.e., requirement that automobiles and like vehicles must have mufflers)

Nonfeasance: Imprudencia, negligencia, impericia en su arte o profesión, inobservancia de reglamentos u ordenanzas, etc. (Nonperformance of an act which should be performed; omission to perform a required duty or total neglect of duty)

Non-jury trial: Juicio ante un Juez (Trial before the court but without a jury. In a
non-jury trial, the court is the finder of both the law and the facts)

Notary Public: Escribano/Agente notarial (A public officer whose function it is to administer oaths, to attest and certify documents and to take acknowledgments)

Notice: citatorio/cedula (A form of notification given by a court or a party to a legal proceeding)

Notice to creditors: notificación a acreedores (A notice given by the bankruptcy court to all creditors of a meeting of creditors)

Nuncupative will: testamento oral (An oral (unwritten) will)

Oath: juramento (A solemn pledge in attestation of the truth of a statement or in verification of a statement made)

Objection: protesto/me opongo (The process by which one party takes exception to some statement or procedure. An objection is either sustained (allowed) or overruled by the judge.

Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA): ley de proteccion de la salud y seguridad en el trabajo (A federal law designed to develop and promote occupational safety and health standards)

Official reports: informes Oficiales (The publication of cumulated court decisions of state or federal courts in advance sheets and bound volumes as provided by statutory authority)

On a person's own recognizance: libertad bajo palabra (Release of a person from custody without the payment of any bail or posting of bond, upon the promise of the party to return to court)

Opening statement: declaracion de apertura/discuro inicial (The initial statement made by attorneys or pro se litigant for each side, outlining the facts each intends to establish during the trial)

Opinion: Dictamen (A judge's written explanation of a decision of the court or of a majority of judges. A dissenting opinion disagrees with the majority opinion because of the reasoning and/or the principles of law on which the decision is based. A concurring opinion agrees with the decision of the court but offers further comment. (A per curiam opinion is an unsigned opinion "of the court.")

Oral argument: exposicion oral (Presentation of an aspect of a case before a court by spoken argument; for example, at a motion calendar)

Order: Orden judicial/mandato (1. Direction of a court or judge made in writing. 2. A mandate, command, or direction authoritatively given)

Ordinance: ordenanza (A rule established by authority; may be a municipal statute of a city council, regulating such matters as zoning, building, safety, matters of municipality, etc)

Overrule: no ha lugar/improcedente (A judge's decision not to allow an objection. Also, a decision by a higher court finding that a lower court decision was in error.

Paper bound supplement: anexo encuadernado (A temporary supplement to a book or books. Paralegal 1. A person with legal skills who works under the supervision of a lawyer. 2. A legal assistant)

Pardon: absolucion/clemencia (An act of grace from governing power which mitigates punishment and restores rights and privileges forfeited on account of the offense)

Parol evidence: prueba oral (Oral or verbal evidence; evidence given by word of mouth in court)

Parole: libertad temprana (Supervised release of a prisoner from imprisonment on certain prescribed conditions which entitle him to relief from a prison sentence)

Party: parte (A person, business, or government agency actively involved in the prosecution or defense of a legal proceeding)

Patent: patente/estar patentado (A grant to an inventor of the right to exclude others, for a limited time, from making, using, or selling his invention in the United States)

Preliminary Injunction: interdicto

Patent and Trademark Office (PTO): departamento de marcas y patentes (The federal agency which examines and issues patents and registers trademarks

Peremptory challenge: disputa sin justificacion (Request by a party that a judge not allow a certain prospective juror as a member of the jury. No reason or cause need be stated. See challenge for cause)

Periodical: boletín (A publication which appears regularly but less often than daily)

Perjury: perjurio (The criminal offense of making a false statement under oath)

Permanent injunction: mandato cautelar permantente (A court order requiring that some action be taken, or that some party refrain from taking action on a permanent basis. It differs from forms of temporary relief, such as a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction)

Per se doctrine: Under this doctrine, an activity such as price fixing can be declared as a violation of the antitrust laws without necessity of a court inquiring into the reasonableness of the activity.

Personal property: bienes patrimoniales (Anything a person owns other than real estate)

Personal recognizance: bajo palabra (In criminal proceedings, the pretrial release of a defendant without bail upon his or her promise to return to court. See recognizance)

Personal representative: administrador/albacea (The person who administers an estate. If named in a will, that person's title is an executor. If there is no valid will, that person's title is an administrator.

Person in need of supervision (PINS): menor responsable de acto delictivo no grave (Juvenile found to have committed a "status offense" rather than a crime that would provide a basis for a finding of delinquency)

Petitioner: solicitante (The person filing a certain type of action in a court of original jurisdiction. Also, the person who appeals the judgment of a lower court. See respondent)

Plaintiff: /parte actora/demandante (A person who brings an action; the party who complains or sues in a civil action. See complainant.

Plea: declaración (The first pleading by a criminal defendant, the defendant's declaration in open court that he or she is guilty or not guilty. The defendant's answer to the charges made in the indictment or information)

Plea bargaining Process: convenio con la fiscalia (where the accused and the prosecutor in a criminal case work out a satisfactory disposition of the case, usually by the accused agreeing to plead guilty to a lesser offense. Such bargains are not binding on the court. Also referred to as plea negotiating.

Pleadings: escritos (The written statements of fact and law filed by
the parties to a lawsuit)

Pocket part Supplements to law books in pamphlet form which are inserted in a pocket inside the back cover of the books to keep them current.

Polling the jury: encuestar al jurado (The act, after a jury verdict has been announced, of asking jurors individually whether they agree with the verdict)

Post-trial: posteriores al juicio (Refers to items happening after the trial, i.e., post-trial motions)

Pour-Over will: A will that leaves some or all estate assets to a trust established before the will maker's death.

Power Authority to do: poder/capacidad para actuar (One has the power to do something if he is of legal age. Also, used as "powers," the term refers to authority granted by one person to another, i.e., powers given an executor in a will or an agent in a power of attorney)

Power of attorney: poder (A formal instrument authorizing another to act as one's agent or attorney)

Precedent Laws: precedents legales: (established by previous cases which must be followed in actions involving identical circumstances. See stare decisis in Foreign Words Glossary)

Preliminary injunction: interdicto (Court order requiring action or forbidding action until a decision can be made whether to issue a permanent injunction. It differs from a temporary restraining order.

Preliminary hearing: audiencia preliminar (Also, preliminary examination. A hearing by a judge to determine whether a person charged with a crime should be held for trial. See arraignment)

Preponderance of the evidence: preponderancia de las pruebas (Greater weight of the evidence, the common standard of proof in civil cases)

Presentence report: informe previo a la sentencia (A report to the sentencing judge containing background information about the crime and the defendant to assist the judge in making his or her sentencing decision)

Presentment: declaracion del gran jurado (Declaration or document issued by a grand jury that either makes a neutral report or notes misdeeds by officials charged with specified public duties. It ordinarily does not include a formal charge of crime. A presentment differs from an indictment)

Pretermitted child: Menor heredero no incuido en el testamento (A child born after a will is executed, who is not provided for by the will. Most states have laws that provide for a share of estate property to go to such children)

Pretrial conference: audienia de actualizacion (Conference among the opposing attorneys (or pro se parties) and the judge called at the discretion of the court to narrow the issues to be tried and to make efforts to settle the case without a trial)

Prima facie case: causa prima facie (A case that is sufficient and has the minimum amount of evidence necessary to allow it to continue in the judicial process. See prima facie in the Foreign Words Glossary)

Primary authority: fuentes primarias calificadas (Constitutions, codes, statutes, ordinances, and case law sources)

Privilege: privilegio (A benefit or advantage to certain persons beyond the advantages of other persons, i.e., an exemption, immunity, power, etc.)

Pro se: pro se (For oneself; on one's own behalf. Probable cause 1. The basis for all lawful searches, seizures and arrests. 2. A reasonable belief that a crime has or is being committed)

Probate Court proceeding: audiencia de sucesion (Proceeding by which a will is proved valid or invalid. Term used to mean all proceedings pertaining to the administration of estates such as the process by which assets are gathered; applied to pay debts, taxes, and expenses of administration; and distributed to those designated as beneficiaries in the will. Conducted in courts)

Probate court: juzgado de sucesion (The court with authority to supervise estate Administration)

Probate estate: patrimonio testamentario (Estate property that may be disposed of by a will. See estate)

Probation: libertad supervisada/l. condicional (An alternative to imprisonment allowing a person found guilty of an offense to stay in the community, usually under conditions and under the supervision of a probation officer. A violation of probation can lead to its revocation and to imprisonment. Product liability Legal responsibility of manufacturers and sellers to buyers, users, and bystanders for damages or injuries suffered because of defects in goods)

Promisee: receptor de la promesa (An individual to whom a promise is made.

Promisor: ejecutor de la promesa (An individual who makes a promise)

Promissory estoppel: promesa prohibitoria (A promise which estops or legally prevents the promisee from asserting or taking certain action)

Property tax: impuesto inmobiliario (A tax levied on land and buildings (real estate)

and on personal property)

Proprietor: propietario (Owner; person who has legal right or title to Anything)

Prosecutor: fiscal (A lawyer representing the government in a criminal case and the interests of the state in civil matters. In criminal cases, the prosecutor
has the responsibility of deciding who and when to prosecute)

Prostitution Rings: Redes de prostitucion; circulos de p.

Proximate cause: causa inmediata (The last negligent act which contributes to an injury. A person generally is liable only if an injury was proximately caused by his or her action or by his or her failure to act when he or she had a duty to act)

Proxy: representante (The instrument authorizing one person to represent, act, and vote for another at a shareholders' meeting of a corporation)

Public law: derecho publico (That law such as traffic ordinances or zoning ordinances which applies to the public)

Public defender: defensor public/defensor de pobres y ausentes (Government lawyer who provides free legal defense services to a poor person accused of a crime)

Public Service Commission: commission de servicios publicos Also, Public Utilities Commission. A state agency which regulates utilities)

Punitive damages: indemnización por daños y perjuicios (Money award given to punish the defendant or wrongdoer)

Purchase agreement/ purchase offer: contrato de compra (Also, sales agreement. Agreement between buyer and seller of property which sets forth the price and terms of a proposed sale)
Putative Alleged; supposed; reputed)

Quash: invalidar/anular/suprimir (To vacate or void a summons, subpoena, etc.)

Quasi-contract: cuasi contrato (An obligation created by the law in the absence of an agreement or contract; not based upon the intentions or expressions of the parties)

Quasi-criminal action: cuasi delito (A classification of actions such as violation of a city ordinance that is not also violation of a criminal statute, which are wrongs against the public punishable through fines but are not usually indictable offenses)

Quiet title action: Acción negatoria (A court proceeding to remove a cloud on the title to real property)

Quitclaim deed: escritura de renuncia (A deed without warranty of title which passes whatever title the grantor has to another)

Real property: bienes inmuebles (Land, buildings, and whatever is attached or affixed to the land. Generally synonymous with the words "real estate")

Reasonable doubt: duda fundamentada/duda razonable (A person accused of a crime is entitled to acquittal if, in the minds of the jury, his or her guilt has not been proved beyond a "reasonable doubt;" i.e., when jurors cannot say they feel an abiding conviction as to the truth of the charge)

Reasonable person: persona sensata/p. capaz (A phrase used to denote a hypothetical person who exercises qualities of attention, knowledge; intelligence, and judgment that society requires of its members for the protection of their own interest and the interests of others. Thus, the test of negligence is based on either a failure to do something that a reasonable person, guided by considerations that ordinarily regulate conduct, would do, or on the doing of something that a reasonable and prudent (wise) person would not do)

Rebut Evidence: refutación de pruebas (disproving other evidence previously given or reestablishing the credibility of challenged evidence. See rejoinder)

Recognizance: libertad bajo palabra (An obligation entered into before a court whereby the recognizor acknowledges that he will do a specific act required by law)

Record: acta (All the documents and evidence plus transcripts of oral proceedings in a case)

Recuse: recusar (The process by which a judge is disqualified from hearing a case, on his or her own motion or upon the objection of either party)

Re-direct examination: Segundo interrogatorio directo (Opportunity to present rebuttal evidence after one's witness has been subjected to cross-examination)

Redress: rectificar/reparar/enmendar (To set right; to remedy; to compensate; to remove the causes of a grievance)

Referee: referí (A person to whom the court refers a pending case to take testimony, hear the parties, and report back to the court. A referee is an officer withjudicial powers who serves as an arm of the court)

Rehearing: segunda audiencia (Another hearing of a civil or criminal case by the same court in which the case was originally heard)

Registered mark: marca registrada (Trademark with the words "Registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office" or the letter "R" enclosed within a circle)

Rejoinder: replica/contestacion (Opportunity for the plaintiff/petitioner to offer limited response to evidence presented by the defendant/respondent. See rebut.

Remand: re-encarcelar (To send a dispute back to the court where it was originally heard. Usually it is an appellate court that remands a case for proceedings in the trial court consistent with the appellate court's ruling)

Remedy: resarcimiento (Legal or judicial means by which a right or privilege is enforced or the violation of a right or privilege is prevented, redressed, or compensated)

Remittitur: (reducción de resarcimiento) The reduction by a judge of the damages awarded by a jury)

Removal: transferir al tribunal federal (The transfer of a state case to federal court)

Replacement volumes: tomos anexos (Volumes which replace books and their pocket parts when the pocket parts cause the books to become too bulky)

Replevin: acción reinvindicatoria de bienes (An action for the recovery of a possession that has been wrongfully taken)

Reply: contestación a la demanda (The response by a party to charges raised in a pleading by the other party)

Request for production of documents: pedido de documentacion (A direction or command served upon another party for production of specified documents for review with respect to a suit; a discovery device)

Rescission: recision (The undoing of a contract; repeal)

Research: investigacion (A careful hunting for facts, truth and/or the law about a subject)

Respondent: demandado/acusado (1. The person that must respond to allegations contained in a petition. 2. The person against whom an appeal is taken. See petitioner)

Rest: no tener más preguntas ni declaraciones (A party is said to "rest" or "rest its case" when it has presented all the evidence it intends to offer)

Restatement: recodificación (A publication which tells what the law is in a particular field, as compiled from statutes and decisions)

Restitution: resarcimiento (Act of restoring anything to its rightful owner; the act of restoring someone to an economic position he enjoyed before he suffered a loss)

Retainer: anticipo (Act of the client in employing the attorney or counsel, and also denotes the fee which the client pays when he or she retains the attorney to act for them)

Return: declaracion (A report to a judge by police on the implementation of an arrest or search warrant. Also, a report to a judge in reply to a subpoena, civil or criminal)

Reverse: revertir el fallo (An action of a higher court in setting aside or revoking a lower court decision)

Reversible error: sentencia revocable (A procedural error during a trial or hearing sufficiently harmful to justify reversing the judgment of a lower court)

Revocable trust: fideicomiso revocable (A trust that the grantor may change or revoke)

Revoke: revocar (To cancel or nullify something)

Right of way: derecho de paso (The right of a party to pass over the land of another)

Robinson-Patman Act (An amendment to the Clayton Act which deals with price discrimination)

Robbery Felonious: hurto doloso (taking of another's property, from his or her person or immediate presence and against his or her will, by means of force or fear. See larceny)

Rules: normas (Established standards, guides, or regulations set up by authority that must be followed by parties to an action.
Rules of evidence Standards governing whether evidence in a civil or criminal case is admissible)

Search warrant: orden de cateo (A written order issued by a judge that directs a law enforcement officer to search a specific area for a particular piece of evidence)

Seal: sellar/precintar (1. To mark a document with a seal; to authenticate or make binding by affixing a seal. Court seal, corporate seal. 2. To seal evidence)

Secondary authority: fuentes secundarias calificadas (Legal encyclopedias, treatises, legal texts, law review articles, and citators. Writings which set forth the opinion of the writer as to the law.

Secured debts: credito hipotecario/ c. prendario (In bankruptcy, a debt is secured if the debtor gave the creditor a right to repossess the property or goods used as collateral)

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC): commission de supervision del Mercado de valores (A federal agency which monitors the securities industry.

Self-defense: defensa propia (The claim that an act otherwise criminal was legally justifiable because it was necessary to protect a person or property from the threat or action of another)

Self-incrimination, privilege against: derecho de evitar auto-incriminacion (The constitutional right of people to refuse to give testimony against themselves that could subject them to criminal prosecution. The right is guaranteed in the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Asserting the right is often referred to as "taking the Fifth.")

Self-proving will: A will whose validity does not have to be testified to in court by the witnesses to it, since the witnesses executed an affidavit reflecting proper execution of the will prior to the maker's death.

Sentence: condena/sentencia (The punishment ordered by a court for a defendant convicted of a crime. See concurrent and consecutive sentences.

Sentence Report See Presentence Report.

Sequester: enclaustrar/recluir (To separate. Sometimes juries are separated from outside influences during their deliberations. For example, this may occur during a highly publicized trial.

Sequestration of witnesses: excluir/aislar los testigos (Keeping all witnesses (except plaintiff and defendant) out of the courtroom except for their time on the stand, and cautioning them not to discuss their testimony with other witnesses. Also referred to as "separation of witnesses.")

Service of process: notificacion judicial (The delivering of writs, summonses, subpoenas or other documents by delivering them to the party named in the document. Also referred to as "service.")

Receipt (mail): Acuse de recibo

Settlement: acto conciliatorio (An agreement between the parties disposing of a lawsuit. Settlor The person who sets up a trust. Also referred to as "grantor")

Shepardizing: uso de citas de Shepard (Method for finding subsequent development of a legal theory by tracing status of a case as legal authority)

Sheriff: alguacil (The executive officer of local court in some areas. In other jurisdictions the sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer of a county)

Sherman Act: Ley de Sherman (The basic antitrust statute prohibiting any unreasonable interference, conspiracy, restraint of trade, or monopolies with respect to interstate commerce.

Sidebar: conferencia con el juez (A conference between the judge and lawyers or pro se litigant, usually held in the courtroom, but neither the jury nor other people in the courtroom may hear the conversation)

Slander: difamacion (Spoken defamation which tends to injure a person's reputation. See libel)

Small Business Administration (SBA): A federal agency which provides assistance of all kinds, including loans, to small businesses.

Small Claims Court: tribunal para controversias de cuantía menor (A state court that handles civil claims for small amounts of money. People often represent themselves rather than hire an attorney)

Social Security: A system of federal old-age pensions for employed persons begun in 1935. A portion of the payment is deducted from the employee's salary and an equal portion is contributed by the employer.

Social Security Administration (SSA) The federal agency which administers the national social security program.

Social Security Tax: impuesto de seguro social (A payroll deduction based on gross wages paid; this amount is matched by the employer as required by the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA).)

Sovereign Immunity: inmunidad soberana (The doctrine that the government, state or federal, is immune to lawsuit unless it gives consent to the suit through statute)

Specific performance: recurso de equidad (A remedy requiring a person who has breached a contract to perform specifically what he or she has agreed to do. Specific performance is ordered when damages would be inadequate compensation)

Speedy Trial: juicio expedito (Act Federal law establishing time limits for carrying out major events, i.e. indictment, arraignment, etc., in a criminal prosecution)

Spendthrift trust: curatela de prodigo (A trust set up for the benefit of someone whom the grantor believes would be incapable of managing his or her own financial affairs)

Standard of proof: pautas para carga de las pruebas (Indicates the degree to which an aspect of a case must be proven. In a civil case, the burden of proof rests with the plaintiff, who must establish his or her case by such standards of proof as a "preponderance of evidence" or "clear and convincing evidence." See burden of proof)

Standing: tener derecho (The legal right to bring a lawsuit. Only a person with something at stake has standing to bring a lawsuit)

Statute: estatuto (Legislative enactment; it may be a single act of a legislature or a body of acts which are collected and arranged for a session of a legislature. See statutory law.

Statute of frauds: A statutory requirement that certain contracts must be in writing.

Statute of limitations: plazo legal (A statute which limits the right of a plaintiff to file an action unless it is done within a specified time period after the occurrence which gives rise to the right to sue.

Statutory: que manda el estatuto (Relating to a statute; created or defined by a law)

Statutory construction Process by which a court seeks to interpret the meaning and scope of legislation.

Statutory law: Laws promulgated by Congress and state legislatures. See case law and common law.

Statutory research: Research of legislation enacted by a state or the United States.

Stay: suspension (A court order halting an event)

Stipulation: acuerdo entre las partes (An agreement between the parties involved in a lawsuit regulating one or more aspects relating to that lawsuit)

Strict liability: responsabilidad civil inexcusable (Concept applied by the courts in product liability cases that when a manufacturer presents his goods for public sale, it is representing that they are suitable for their intended use)

Strike Pleadings: invalidez/improcedencia de las pruebas o suplicas (evidence or other matters in a case that have been improperly presented to the court and will not be allowed to remain as part of the case)

Subpoena: citatorio (A command to appear at a certain time and place to give testimony upon a certain matter.

Subpoena Duces Tecum: orden de presentar documentos como prueba (A court order commanding a witness to bring certain documents or records to court)

Substantive law: ley que rige en la materia (The statutory or written law that governs rights and obligations of those who are subject to it)

Summary judgment: fallo previo al juicio (A pre-trial judgment given on the basis of pleadings, affidavits, and exhibits presented for the record by way of a motion. It is used when there is no genuine issue of material fact and one party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law. See FRCP 56)

Summons: emplazamiento (Instrument used to commence a civil action or special proceeding; the means of acquiring jurisdiction over a party)

Support trust: fideicomiso para auto-manutencion (A trust that instructs the trustee to spend only as much income and principal (the assets held in the trust) as needed for the beneficiary's support)

Usufructo Vitalicio
Direccion Provincial de Registro de Propiedad

Suppress: suprimir (To forbid the use of evidence at a trial because it is improper or was improperly obtained. See exclusionary rule)

Surety Bond: certificado de fianza/fidelidad (A bond purchased at the expense of the estate to insure the executor's proper performance. Also referred to as "fidelity bond.)

Survivorship: titularida mancomunada (See joint tenancy)

Suspension: suspension (A temporary loss of the right to practice law by an attorney. See disbarment or censure)

Sustain: ha lugar (A court ruling upholding an objection or a motion)

Taxable income: ingresos sujetos a gravamen (The income against which tax rates are applied to compute tax paid; gross income of businesses or adjusted gross income of individuals less deductions and exemptions.

Tax Court of the United States: tribunal tributario de los EEUU (A judicial body which hears cases concerning federal tax laws.

Temporary relief: desagravio provisorio (Any order from the court that protects an interest of a party pending further action by the court)

Processing Fee: Taza de justicia

Temporary restraining order: orden de restriccion provisional (An emergency remedy of brief duration issued by a court only when immediate or irreparable damages or loss might result before the opposition could take action, and where the moving party can establish irreparable harm if not for the remedy and a likelihood of success on the merits of his/her underlying claim.

Tender of performance: propuesta de desempeno (An offer or attempt to do what is required under a contract or under the law)

Testamentary capacity: capacidad sucesoria (The legal ability to make a will)

Testamentary trust: fideicomiso sucesorio (A trust set up by a will)\

Testator: testador/testadora (Person who makes a will; Female: testatrix).

Testimony: declaracion/alegato (The evidence given by a witness under oath. It does not include evidence from documents and other physical evidence.

Third party complaint: A pleading filed by a defendant against a third party (not presently a party to the suit) which alleges that the third party is liable for all or part of the damages plaintiff may obtain from defendant.

Title: titularidad (Legal ownership of property, usually real property or automobiles)

Tort: agravio (A private or civil wrong or injury for which the court provides a remedy through an action for damages)

Trademark: marca registrada (A word, name, symbol, or devise used by a manufacturer to distinguish its goods from those sold by others)

Transcript: transcsripcion (A written, word-for-word record of what was said during a proceeding. Usually refers to a record of a trial, hearing, or other proceeding which has been transcribed from a recording or from shorthand)

Treatise: tratado (A book or writing containing a narrative statement on a field of law)

Trial: juicio (A judicial examination of issues between parties to an action)

Trial brief: resumen de la causa (A written document prepared for the court and used at trial. It contains the issues to be tried, synopsis of evidence to be presented and case and statutory authority to substantiate the party's position at trial)

Trust: fideicomiso (A legal device used to manage real or personal property, established by one person (grantor or settlor) for the benefit of another (beneficiary). See trustee.

Trust agreement or declaration: The legal document that sets up a living trust. Testamentary trusts are set up in a will.

Trustee: The person or institution that manages the property put in trust.

Truth in lending: pautas de prestamo (Statutes which provide that precise and meaningful cost of credit information be provided to the credit customer)

Unfair labor practice: Actions by the employer which interfere with, restrain, coerce, or threaten employees with respect to their rights as employees.

Uniform Commercial Code (UCC): A uniform law governing commercial transactions. The UCC has been adopted by all states except Louisiana.

Uniform Laws Annotated: Annotated uniform and model acts approved by the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Unilateral contract An agreement by which one undertakes an express performance without receiving any express promise of performance from the other.

Union An organization of workers formed for the purpose of collective bargaining.

United States Attorney: fiscal general (A federal district attorney appointed by the President to prosecute all offenses committed against the United States; to prosecute or defend the government in all civil actions in which it is concerned)

United States Bankruptcy Court The judicial body which hears matters pertaining to bankruptcy and reorganization.

United States Court of Appeals Courts which hear appeals from federal district courts, bankruptcy courts, and tax courts.

United States Court of Claims Court which hears certain actions brought against the U.S. Government.

United States Court of Military Appeals: (Court which hears appeals from court marshall decisions. Corte marcial)

United States Court of Customs & Patent: Appeals Court which hears appeals from all U.S. customs courts.

United States Court of International Trade: Court which hears cases concerning federal tariff laws.

United States District Courts: tribunales provinciales (Courts which hear both criminal and civil actions and admiralty cases)

United States Magistrate: Juez de instruccion/ J. Correccional (Judge Judicial officer given authority by 28 U.S.C. § 636. This judicial officer hears all preliminary criminal matters, but does not conduct felony trials. A United States Magistrate Judge also presides over any pretrial civil matters referred by the district judge. If all parties consent, criminal misdemeanor and civil trials can be heard by a United States Magistrate Judge. El Consejo de la Magistratura elige los jueces coreccionales)

United States Marshall Service: policia judicial (Agency which serves civil and criminal process in federal courts for those people who have been found to be a pauper)

United States Postal Service: servicio postal de los EEUU (The federal office which provides mail delivery to individuals and businesses within the United States)

United States Reports: Publication of court decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

United States Supreme Court: Corte suprema de la nacion (The highest court in the land, established by U.S. Constitution)

Unsecured debts: prestamos sin garantia (In bankruptcy, debts such as open accounts at department stores for which the debtor has not pledged collateral to guarantee payment)

Urban: urbano (A city or town)

Usury: usura (Extraction of interest on a loan above the maximum rate permitted by statute)

Vacate: desalojar (To set aside)

Venire: Venire (A writ summoning persons to court to act as jurors. See venire facias in Foreign Words)

Venue: jurisdiccion (Authority of a court to hear a matter based on geographical location)

Verdict: veredicto (A conclusion, as to fact or law, that forms the basis for the judgment of the jury or the court-See Judgment as a Matter of Law)

Veterans' Administration (VA) The federal agency which administers a system of benefits for veterans and their dependents.

Visa: visa An official endorsement on a document or passport denoting that the bearer may proceed.

Void: nulo (Invalid; a void agreement is one for which there is no remedy)

Voidable: Capable of being declared invalid; a voidable contract is one where a person may avoid an obligation, as a contract between an adult and a minor.

Voir dire: Voir dire (The preliminary examination made in court of a witness or juror to determine his/her competency or interest in a matter. Literally, to speak the truth)

Voluntary bankruptcy: bancarrota voluntaria (A proceeding by which a debtor voluntarily asks for a discharge of his/her debts under the Bankruptcy Code.

Waiver: ceder el derecho/no exercer un derecho (The giving up of a right)

Waiver of immunity: renuncia a inmunidad (A means authorized by statute by which a witness, before testifying or producing evidence, may relinquish the right to refuse to testify against himself or herself, thereby making it possible for his or her testimony to be used against him or her in future proceedings)

Warrant: orden de arresto (Most commonly, a court order authorizing law enforcement officers to make an arrest or conduct a search. An application seeking a warrant must be accompanied by an affidavit which establishes probable cause by detailing the facts upon which the request is based)

Warranty: garantia (A promise that a proposition of fact is true)

Warranty deed: escritura con tutularidad avalada (A deed which guarantees that the title conveyed is good and its transfer rightful)

Easement: derecho de uso y usufructo

Water rights: derecho de agua (The right to use water)

Will: testamento (A legal declaration that disposes of a person's property when that person dies.

Withholding: retencion (A tax deducted from a salary, wage, or other income on behalf of the government at the time of payment of wages to the person who pays it)

With prejudice: con prohibicion (A declaration which dismisses all rights. A judgment barring the right to bring or maintain an action on the same claim or cause)

Without prejudice: sin prohibicion (A declaration that no rights or privileges of the party concerned are waived or lost. In a dismissal, these words maintain the right to bring a subsequent suit on the same claim)

Witness: testigo (One who personally sees or perceives a thing; one who testifies as to what he has seen, heard, or otherwise observed)

Words and Phrases Legally Defined: A set of books in dictionary form which lists judicial determinations of a word or phrase.

Worker's compensation: compensacion al trabajador (A state agency which handles claims of workers injured on their jobs)

Writ: orden judicial (A judicial order directing a person to do something)

Writ of certiorari: translado/vista (An order issued by the Supreme Court directing the lower court to transmit records for a case for which it will hear on appeal. See certiorari in Foreign Words Glossary)

Writ of execution: mandato de ejecusion/embargo (An order of the court evidencing debt of one party to another and commanding the court officer to take property in satisfaction of the debt)

Writ of garnishment: orden de embargo de haberes (An order of the court whereby property, money, or credits in the possession of another person may be seized and applied to pay a debtor's debt. It is used as an incident to or auxiliary of a judgment rendered in a principal action)

Zoning Commission: departamento de planeamiento urbano (Local agencies with jurisdiction to regulate use of properties within their geographic area)