



A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage (Oxford Quick Reference)

By Bryan A. Garner

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The need for clarity and precision in legal writing has become increasingly apparent in recent years. Until this award-winning book appeared, the unwieldy body of legal language had not been collected or scrutinized in any systematic way.

Far more than a typical law dictionary, *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* is the first and only comprehensive guide to style and usage for the legal writer. Bryan A. Garner, an editor, academic, and practicing lawyer has written an accessible, authoritative, and up-to-date guide that will help anyone in the legal thicket write better, including lawyers, judges, students, journalists, and those who work in other fields concerned with law (among them medicine, business, and finance).

At once scholarly and entertaining, the alphabetical entries define and distinguish between commonly misused words; explain standard usages that other reference works ignore; and cumulatively provide an unparalleled guide to legal style. On virtually every page, the volume contains sparkling essays on such topics as metaphors, sexism, clichés, Latinisms, dangles, split infinitives, and purple prose. It also brims with actual illustrations from judicial opinions, statutes, briefs, and law review articles.

Already viewed as the classic book in its field, *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* fills an important gap in legal reference literature.

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Like the superb first edition (LJ 9/15/87), this new version of *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* is loaded with well-documented (and even witty) definitions and examples of legal usage. With hundreds of new entries the dictionary now lists some 9000 legal words and phrases, including some Latin terms. It has also been widely updated and expanded to include several thousand new illustrative quotations, most of them cited to judicial opinions. A former lawyer and law professor and now a highly respected consultant on legal writing, Garner advises on "the many grammatical and stylistic questions that arise in legal writing." Many of these are problems of usage unique to law. This is primarily a guide to American usage, but American and British differences are carefully distinguished. Legal writers in particular will benefit from the information and advice here, and for readers, too, it makes an excellent supplement to law dictionaries. This dictionary sets the standard for legal usage. It is absolutely indispensable for law libraries, lawyers, and judges, and a wonderful addition to all academic and public library reference collections. Mary Jane Brustman, SUNY at Albany Libs.

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From [Booklist](#)

The well-received *Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* (1987) has been updated in this superior second edition. This dictionary of law usage and etymology, not just definitions, is written in a clear and concise style. The number of entries has almost doubled from the first edition, and additional illustrative quotations have been added with complete citations. New terms in this edition include *remote relatives*, *reverse discrimination*, *gray mail*, *shadow jury*, *lynch law*, and *misconduct in the office*.

The entries are arranged alphabetically, interspersed with brief essays on issues of style, grammar and usage, legal lexicology, word formation, and punctuation. The initial words of these essays are capitalized to set them apart. So, for example, there is both a definition of *forbid*, *forbade*, *forbidden* with four quotations from cases or other law books and a discussion of forbidden words and phrases with a list of useless words--*irregardless*, *wheresoever*, etc.

It is unfortunate that the introduction from the first edition was not reprinted in the new volume since it describes the purposes of the book--perhaps the most important is "to make legal writers sensitive to the aesthetic possibilities of their prose, to goad them into thinking more acutely about what works in a given context, and what does not." Even libraries that have the first edition should consider this new one, which is highly recommended for any law collection in public or academic libraries.

Review

"You will use *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* again and again with confidence and delight. This is one of the best books ever written for lawyers."--ABA Appellate Practice Journal

"Garner has produced a work of learning, taste, care, and wit."--ABA Journal

"Even law libraries that already own the first edition should benefit from Garner's new edition."--Law Library Journal

"Assiduous use of the newly revised *Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* will improve mediocre legal writing

and enhance good documents. Libraries that serve the legal community and people who read what lawyers write should add this work to their reference collections."--RQ

"The first edition of this book has been praised around the world as both the most reliable guide to legal usage and the most fascinating to read. The second edition outdoes even its predecessor, with more depth, more illustrative quotations, and more proof of Garner's lively literary style. He has surely established himself as the world's leading authority on the language of the law."--Charles Alan Wright

"The well-received Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage has been updated in this superior second edition....Even libraries that have the first edition should consider this new one, which is highly recommended for any law collection in public or academic libraries."--RBB/Booklist

"This dictionary sets the standard for legal usage. It is absolutely indispensable for law libraries, lawyers, and judges, and a wonderful addition to all academic and public library reference collections."--Library Journal

"An impressive enhancement of the original edition....Garner's approach to legal language makes this resource essential to law and social science collections and to all levels of readers, including lawyers."--Choice

"Keep a copy of this book where you write briefs. You will use A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage, Second Edition, again and again with confidence and delight. This is one of the best books ever written for lawyers."--The Appellate Practice Journal and Update

"This dictionary is not only useful, it is actually fun to browse in. Its entries are admirably clear and direct, and often clever. If used regularly by enough lawyers, it could put an end to legalese."--The Federal Lawyer

Users Review

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David Williams:

This A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage (Oxford Quick Reference) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This specific A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage (Oxford Quick Reference) without we understand teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't become worry A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage (Oxford Quick Reference) can bring once you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it with your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage (Oxford Quick Reference) having fine arrangement in word in addition to layout, so you will not experience uninterested in reading.

Maria Casillas:

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