



Let's Learn Latin Basic Legal Lingo

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Why, oh why? Blame the Romans

The legal system used in the United States today has its roots in ancient Rome – the Romans once ruled over large areas of what is now known as Europe, and the legal system in the United States developed from the first European colonies, resulting in a large carryover of Latin legal terms in today's lawyering textbooks ...

LATIN-

It's everywhere!

Here are a few examples:

Etc. (Et cetera)

Per capita

Submarine

Veto

Some Basics

Ad=For

Et=And

Ex=From

In=In

Per=By

Pro=For/From

Sub=Under

$$X + Y = Z$$

Common Latin Legal Phrases

Ad (For) + Litem (Suit) = For the suit

Example: Guardian Ad Litem

Ad (For) + Valorem (Value) = For/According to Value

Example: Ad Valorem Tax

Et (And) + al (Others)= And Others

Et (And) + ver/vir (Husband)= And Husband

Et (And) + ux/uxor (Wife)= And Wife

Ex (From) + officio (the Office) =

As a result of one's office/position

Ex (From) + Parte (one party) =

For one party, in the absence of others

Ex (From) + post (after) + facto (fact) =

Retroactive

Our Latin Roots

You are smarter than you think!

Let's prove it...

What does the Latin word “corpus” mean?

Corpus juris = Body of Law

Corpus juris civilis = Body of Civil Law

Habeas Corpus = Hold the Body

What does the Latin word “parentis” mean?

In loco parentis = In the place of a Parent (Think Passports)

What about “persona”? Grata/Gratis?

Persona non grata = Person not welcome

Latin is for “Pro’s”

Pro + bono = For the Good

Pro + forma = For Form

Pro + rata = For a certain Rate

Pro + tem/tempore = For the Time

Nunc pro tunc = Now For Then

Quid pro quo = What For What

A “de” in Latin...

De facto = By Deed/Fact

De jure = By Law

De minimus = Of Little Importance

De novo = From the New/Afresh

And that's an ORDER!

Mandatum – A command – a MANDATE
Writ of Mandamus – A higher Court commanding a
lower Court to do something.

“Friends” Forever

In Spanish = *Amigo*

In French = *Ami/Amie*

In Latin = *Amicus*

Amicus Curiae = Friend of the Court

AKA...Amicus Brief

RAPID FIRE LATIN

In absentia In the Absence

Ergo Therefore

Jurat To Swear Truth

Lis pendens Suit Pending

Mea culpa Through my fault/I'm sorry

Subpoena Under Written Order

Subpoena duces tecum Under Written Order to Bring

Latin in the Armed Forces

Semper = Always

Semper fidelis = Always Faithful

Semper fortis = Always Courageous

Semper a Deo protectus = Always protected by God

Finis
THE END