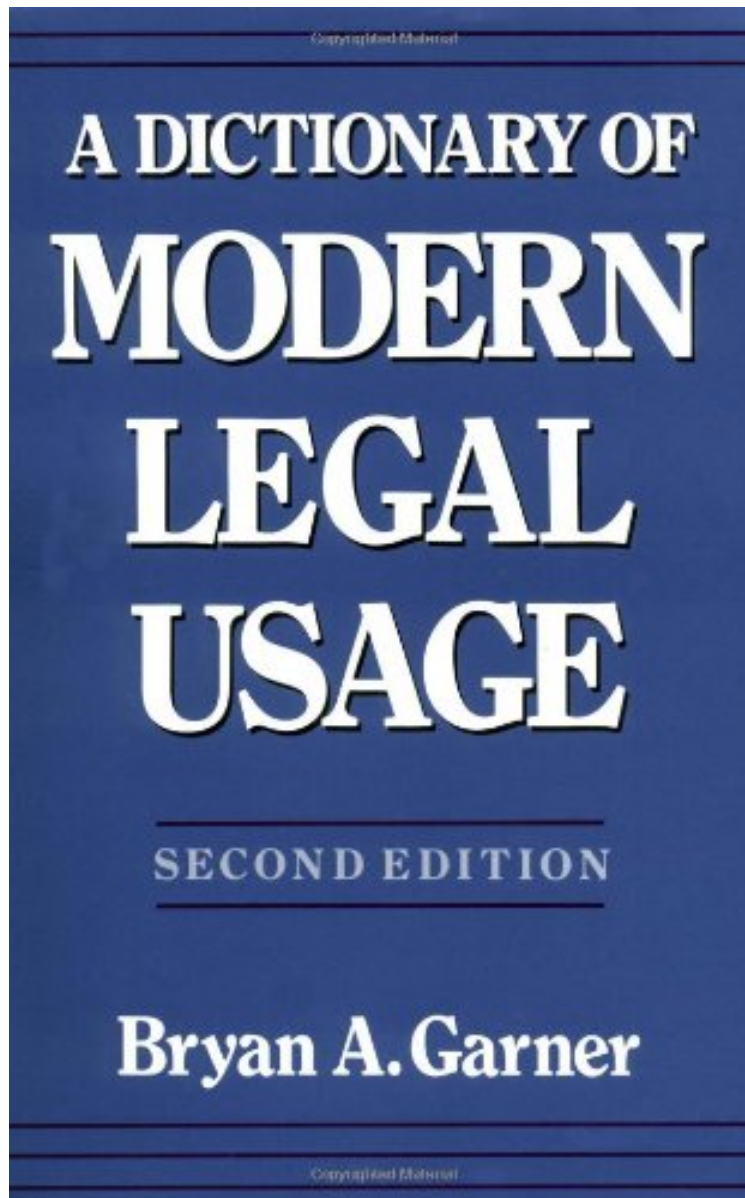


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## A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage

*Bryan A. Garner*

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Garner's Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage gives authoritative guidance on all the vexing questions that legal writers face, from correcting grammatical errors to framing legal issues to distinguishing between similar but distinct legal terms. With great detail and care, Garner explains what legalese is, how it can be simplified, and how far legal writers can go in simplifying it. The topics are alphabetically arranged for ease of reference: simply look up any phrase or grammatical category you're interested in, and you're likely to find the final word on the subject. Shortly after the completion of this massively expanded second edition, the late Charles Alan Wright said: "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."

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. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. 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. "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

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