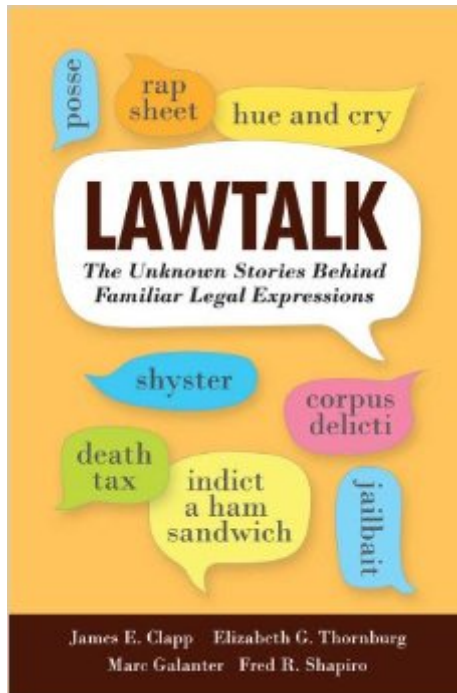


The book was found

Lawtalk: The Unknown Stories Behind Familiar Legal Expressions



Synopsis

Law-related words and phrases abound in our everyday language, often without our being aware of their origins or their particular legal significance: boilerplate, jailbait, pound of flesh, rainmaker, the third degree. This insightful and entertaining book reveals the unknown stories behind familiar legal expressions that come from sources as diverse as Shakespeare, vaudeville, and Dr. Seuss.

Separate entries for each expression follow no prescribed formula but instead focus on the most interesting, enlightening, and surprising aspects of the words and their evolution. Popular myths and misunderstandings are explored and exploded, and the entries are augmented with historical images and humorous sidebars. Lively and unexpected, *Lawtalk* will draw a diverse array of readers with its abundance of linguistic, legal, historical, and cultural information. Those readers should be forewarned: upon finishing one entry, there is an irresistible temptation to turn to another, and yet another. . . .

Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Yale University Press; First Edition (US) First Printing edition (November 22, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780300172461

ISBN-13: 978-0300172461

ASIN: 030017246X

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars . . . See all reviews . . . (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,195,405 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #126 in . . . Books > Law >

Dictionaries & Terminology #762 in . . . Books > Law > Business > Reference #1071 in . . . Books >

Reference > Quotations

Customer Reviews

This book is meticulously researched and immensely enjoyable to read. I loved learning about such expressions as the "thin blue line" (actually linked to the British red coats) and "green card" (which isn't green--at least not now--and a great example of "Spanglish," or how words move back and forth between English and Spanish). This well-designed, easy-to-navigate volume would make a great holiday gift for any legal mind or aficionado of language.

If you like language history, this book is a lively read, and a quite engaging one too, not a dry listing of etymologies. While it should also be of interest to those in the legal profession, it focuses mainly on words and phrases of legal origin used in everyday life ("billable hour", "green card", etc.) rather than technical legal phrases, so non-lawyers shouldn't find it unnecessarily daunting. Many of the phrases have entertaining backstories that touch on a variety of historical incidents and accidents, so it's a nice route by which to get at some of the alleys and byways of legal history. The phrases themselves often make more sense once their origin is clarified, too. And finally, it's a good work of scholarship: the authors go to primary sources and comb archives to find the real origins of words, which in many cases are older than what existing literature usually claims (they even correct a few errors in high-quality sources like the Oxford English Dictionary).

The only thing that saved me on a packed 11 hour flight from NYC to Hawaii (with broken earphones and a sleeping girlfriend) was this book. Funny, insightful, completely repeatable (between naps my girlfriend got to hear the many "best ofs"), this book is terrific. As a lawyer, I've used or was familiar with virtually all of these phrases. Yet I had not before considered themes of the law in terms of color (blackmail, blue laws, green card, and white shoe), anatomy (Chancellor's foot, pound of flesh, or eye for an eye) or animals (kangaroo court, Jim Crow, and the law is an ass) - and the derivation of these terms is fascinating. Thoughtfully researched and entertainingly presented, half reference, half entertainment, this book has become a staple in my office, shared with friends and colleagues alike.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Lawtalk: The Unknown Stories Behind Familiar Legal Expressions Photographic Collection of Unknown Tea Bowls: Picking out Unknown but Wonderful Tea Bowls Japanese Pottery and Tea Ceremony (Japanese Edition) Genogramas en la evolucion familiar (Terapia Familiar) (Spanish Edition) Burtons Legal Thesaurus 5th edition: Over 10,000 Synonyms, Terms, and Expressions Specifically Related to the Legal Profession The Definitive Book of Body Language: The Hidden Meaning Behind People's Gestures and Expressions I Didn't Know That Comes From The Bible: From Sour Grapes to Feet Of Clay, The Biblical Origins Behind Our Everyday Words and Expressions Ouija Board Stories: Chilling True Horror Stories Of Ouija Boards Gone Wrong (Ouija Board Stories, Ghost Stories, True Horror Stories, Ouija Board Nightmares, Haunted Places Book 1) Bizarre True Stories: Weird And Unusual True Stories Of The Paranormal, Strange Sightings, Eerie True Ghost Stories And Unexplained Phenomena (True Paranormal ... True Ghost Stories And Hauntings) Ghost Stories: Petrifying True Ghost Stories Of The Undead And Their

Supernatural Tales (Ghost Stories, True Ghost Stories, Conspiracy Theories, True Ghost ... And Hauntings, Haunted Asylums, Book 1) True Ghost Stories And Hauntings: Horrifying True Paranormal Hauntings From The Last 300 Years: Creepy True Ghost Stories And Accounts (True Ghost Stories, True Paranormal, Bizarre True Stories) Behind the Secrets (Behind the Lives Book 4) Legal Thriller: Predatory Kill: A Brent Marks Legal Thriller (Brent Marks Legal Thrillers Book 2) Legal Thriller: The Spy Files, A Courtroom Drama: A Brent Marks Legal Thriller (Brent Marks Lawyer Legal Thrillers Series Books Book 7) English Legal System with Legal Method, Skills & Reasoning SAVER: Learning Legal Skills and Reasoning Legal Theory and the Legal Academy: Volume III (The Library of Essays in Contemporary Legal Theory) Trees; a Guide to Familiar American Trees The Harvard Medical School Guide to Men's Health: Lessons from the Harvard Men's Health Studies by Simon, Harvey B. unknown Edition [Paperback(2004)] Ayurvedic Cooking for Westerners: Familiar Western Food Prepared with Ayurvedic Principles The Iambics of Newfoundland: Notes from an Unknown Shore The Struggle for Social Justice in British Columbia: Helena Gutteridge, the Unknown Reformer

[Dmca](#)