

Lesson 17

Legal Terms

All the words in this lesson are associated with the field of law.

affidavit N. a sworn, written statement (My lawyer and I appeared at the courthouse to present my *affidavit* concerning the accident.)

annul V. to make legally invalid or void (If the terms are not met, we will *annul* the contract.)

arbitration N. the process of deciding or settling a conflict (The company's salary *arbitration* will begin next week.)

bequeath V. to leave or hand down by will (Uncle Bill will *bequeath* his antique wooden golf club to Gary if he promises not to use it.)

breach N. a break or split in a structure, relationship, or agreement (A *breach* in negotiations occurred when the two officials disagreed on a crucial point.)

codicil N. an addition, especially to a will (The attorneys stated that the *codicil* affected the entire will.)

concede V. to admit as true; to acknowledge (The defense attorney agreed to *concede* on two counts if the other charges were dropped.)

concise ADJ. brief; expressing much in a few words (A *concise* summary of the committee's findings will be made available next week.)

deposition N. testimony before a court, especially a statement in writing (Prior to the trial date the defendant's *deposition* is taken.)

impartial ADJ. unbiased; lacking favoritism in deciding an issue (A judge must be *impartial* so that the defendant receives justice.)

indemnity N. insurance or other protection against loss, damages, liability, or penalty (Loretta was told that she had *indemnity* against flood damage.)

indict V. to charge formally with a crime (The grand jury plans to *indict* the governor.)

jurisprudence N. a system of law; the philosophy of law (Law students spend three years studying American *jurisprudence*.)

mandate N. an order given by a superior court to a lower court (We think the *mandate* is unjustified and will request that it be repealed.)

pending ADJ. not yet decided; yet to occur (Based on the *pending* decision, the defendant may be sent to jail for six years.)

premeditate V. to consider beforehand; to plan (Unless the defense can convince the jury that Maria did not *premeditate* the crime, her sentence will be quite severe.)

promissory ADJ. containing a pledge or promise (A mortgage on a house is a type of *promissory* note.)

redress V. to correct; to make right (The court ordered him to *redress* his crime by working three days a week in public service.)

statute N. a law (The *statute* allows motorists to travel sixty-five miles per hour on certain interstate highways.)

tribunal N. a court or person empowered to make a judgment (The school created a special *tribunal* to determine if Michael should be expelled.)