

Legal Terminology in English

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دار الثقافة
للنشر والتوزيع
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Dedication

This book is dedicated to
my beloved daughter, Jana

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تقديم

هذا الكتاب طبعة جديدة لكتاب مصطلحات قانونية باللغة الانكليزية حيث نُشرت طبعة سابقة من هذا الكتاب. وبالمقارنة مع الطبعة السابقة، فإن هذه الطبعة موسعة ومنقحة على نحو أفضل لتناولها موضوعات ومستجدات في نطاق موضوعات الكتاب

ولا بد من تقديم وافر الشكر والتقدير للأصدقاء والزملاء الذين ساعدوني على رؤية المواضيع التي تحتاج للتعديل من فترة لأخرى.

الأستاذ الدكتور

كمال عبد الرحيم العلاوين

INTRODUCTION

Introduction by Professor Aaron Nielson, Brigham Young University Law School

Law, and the legal profession, is full of complex words and ideas. English is one of the most confusing and convoluted languages on Earth, especially for those who did not grow up speaking it. Understanding law in English therefore is doubly difficult. Not only can the concepts be challenging, but the very language being used to describe those concepts can also be challenging. Put both of those challenging things together and you have a problem.

Unfortunately, there is no getting around the problem. Law is one of the foundations of society, and although it often can be confusing, English is regularly used in law.

What is an Arabic-speaking lawyer or law student to do?

Legal Terminology in English is designed to help solve this serious problem. This book is a great reference that incorporates interactive teaching methods through exercises and covers many important legal topics. Indeed, the book addresses contract law, civil procedure, intellectual property, international law, criminal law, and even alternative dispute resolution, among other topics. It also covers significant legal concepts, including the difference between private and public law, civil and common law, and statutory and constitutional law. Whatever your field of law, this book should help you better understand and incorporate English.

Importantly, however, *Legal Terminology in English* is not simply a reference book. It is also a teaching tool. The book asks a lot of its readers. Throughout, it offers exercises designed to help readers not just recite legal English, but to learn legal English so well that they can use it. Going through the lessons in *Legal Terminology in English*, it is helpful

to have Arabic-to-English and English-to-Arabic dictionaries by your side. It is also helpful to read *Legal Terminology in English*-and to practice the exercises-out loud. Speaking English is the best way to learn English, and even if someone already speaks English well, learning to speak legal English is a separate challenge. Accordingly, to get the most out of *Legal Terminology in English*, a reader needs to take the exercises seriously.

Additionally, one of the secrets of *Legal Terminology in English* is that it does more than just help its readers understand legal English. Instead, the book also offers a useful introduction to law more generally, regardless of language. If a reader is looking for a good primer for legal concepts, especially as those concepts relate to Jordan, this book is a great place to start. Not only will a reader, for example, gain insight into the Jordanian Constitution and the various categories of law that Jordan recognizes, but the reader will also better understand the complex sets of institutions-both public and private-that influence Jordanian society. And make no mistake: law is everywhere. As *Legal Terminology in English* demonstrates, it is hard to find an area of society that does not at least brush against law. Throughout the book, one finds discussion of how particular legal concepts relate to Jordan in particular.

One of the longest chapters in *Legal Terminology in English* concerns contracts. This should not be surprising. A contract should not be thought of as just a dull document that no ordinary person has any reason to care about. Instead, contract law is a foundational tool of cooperation, including across cultures. As the world engages in more international commercial exchanges, moreover, the value of contract law becomes even greater. Lawyers therefore will increasingly find themselves needing to understand how to negotiate, draft, and finalize contracts in English. *Legal Terminology in English* is perfect for such situations.

Finally, speaking as a Civil Procedure professor, I especially enjoy *Legal Terminology in English*'s description of the logistics of litigation in Jordan. There is a standalone chapter on Civil Procedure, but more than that, the subject is woven into the book's fabric. Civil Procedure plays an important role in protecting legal rights but also can easily be overlooked. At the same time, Civil Procedure can be so complicated that even attempting to discuss it bogs everything down. (It is not by accident that Civil Procedure is often feared by students as an especially difficult and dry course.) *Legal Terminology in English* avoids both of those errors; it gives readers enough of a taste of Civil Procedure that they can begin to understand and even appreciate why this field is significant, but it does so by sprinkling relevant concepts throughout the book.

Legal English is tricky-sometimes really tricky. But legal English is also unavoidable, especially for those practicing or learning law. Thankfully, *Legal Terminology in English* exists to make it easier to understand and use legal English.