

APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY

Act - An enacted (passed) piece of legislation; may also be referred to as a law or slip law.

Advance Sheet - Paperback volume of a case reporter that preceded publication of the bound volume and has the same volume and page numbers as the bound volume will have. Usually contains a list of cases reported, index of topics, table of unpublished opinions, and table of citations to laws, acts, and statutes.

Annotated Code - Subject arrangement of a jurisdiction's public, general laws currently in force, including for each section of each law abstracts of cases interpreting the language of the sections, legislative history, cross references to other code sections, references to law review articles, and cross references to pertinent material in other legal resources.

Annotation- 1) Additional explanation or abstract of a statute. May include legislative history, relevant decisions, and journal references. 2) Essay on a legal topic, generally footnoted with references to cases.

Appellant- Party who initiates an appeal from one court to another.

Bill - Proposed piece of legislation.

Brief - Written argument presented to the court by different parties.

Case - Action or suit contested in court.

Citation or Cite - Written legal reference identifying a particular document (decision, statute, etc.).

Citator - A publication that compiles cases, statutes and other sources of law, showing citations to later sources of law that may affect the authority, validity or meaning of a previous case or statute.

Cite - See Citation.

Code - Subject compilation of a jurisdiction's public, general laws or administrative rules currently in force.

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Codify - To collect and systematically arrange systematically laws, rules or regulations.

Court of last resort - A court from which there is no appeal.

Court of record - A court whose acts and judicial proceedings are reported and which has the power to fine or imprison for contempt.

Court Reporter - 1) Publication containing published court decisions; 2) Individual who records court proceedings.

Decision - Used as a synonym for opinion. Technically, the decision of a court is its judgment while the opinion is the reason given for that judgment, or the expression of the views of the judge

Defendant - Party against which action is brought in court.

Delegated legislation - Administrative rules and regulations.

Digest - Volume or volumes that provide topical access to reporters.

Docket - Court calendar.

Headnote - Summary of a point of law in a court decision.

Key Number - Number assigned to a headnote in the West National Reporter System.

Law Review - Journal edited by law students and published by a law school.

LexisNexis - Online legal database supported by LexisNexis Group that contains the full text of primary and secondary legal resources. LexisNexis Group is the global legal publishing arm of Reed Elsevier, an Anglo-Dutch company.

Looseleaf service - Commercially produced topical publication that provides current information through the use of loose pages that are issued frequently and interfiled in a binder. Outdated pages are discarded, according to the publisher's instructions.

National Reporter System - West Publishing Company's system of federal,

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regional and state reporters.

Nutshell - West Group's series of concise treatises on a wide range of legal topics. There are more than 115 titles in the Nutshell Series.

Official Reporter - Reporter selected by a particular jurisdiction to publish its court opinions.

Opinion - Used as a synonym for decision. Technically, a decision of the court is its judgment; the opinion is the reasons given for that judgment, or the expression of the views of the judge.

Ordinances - Local laws.

Original Jurisdiction – Jurisdiction of a court to assert authority over a case at the outset, to try it, and to decide the issues.

Parallel cites or Parallel citations - Citations to the same opinion in two or more different reporters.

Plaintiff - Party in a court case bringing the action to court.

Pocket Part - Supplement that slips into a pocket in the back of a published volume to update information in that volume.

Precedent - A court decision that provides an example or authority for a similar case that later confronts a similar question of law.

Primary legal sources - Texts of laws, constitutions, court decisions, administrative agency regulations and rulings, executive orders, treaties, and other first-hand accounts of the law.

Pro se - Representing oneself in court without an appearance by a lawyer.

Published decision/opinion - Court decision that is published in a reporter.

Respondent - Party who responds to an appeal brought by another party.

Secondary legal resources - Treatises, legal encyclopedias, law review articles, reports of commissions and associations, etc. Sources that describe, explain, analyze, criticize, or suggest changes in the law.

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Session laws - Slip laws arranged in chronological order and published in permanent bound volumes.

Shepard's - A major legal citator. See also citator.

Shepardize - Using Shepard's Citations as a citator to determine the current status of a particular law. See also citator.

Slip law - Text of a single act issued officially in a pamphlet or single sheet.

Slip opinion - Text of a single court decision officially issued in a pamphlet prior to publication in a permanent volume.

Stare decisis - Legal doctrine that requires courts to stand by precedent.

Syllabus - A note prefixed to a court opinion, containing a brief statement of the rulings of the court upon the point or points decided in the case.

Synopsis - Brief summary of the facts of a case.

Statute - Law passed by a state legislature or Congress.

Treatise - A secondary source in the form of a narrative text that provides an in-depth analysis of a legal subject.

Unpublished decision/opinion - Court decision not published in a standard reporter. Many of these are available on LexisNexis and Westlaw.

Westlaw - Online legal database developed by West Group that contains primary and secondary legal resources, as well as editorial enhancements found in the National Reporter System.