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A Legal English Bibliography

International Legal English, A Course for Classroom or Self-Study Use, Amy Krois-Lindner and Translegal (2006).

- This textbook is British-based in content and terminology, and is published by the Cambridge University Press. It includes 15 units divided according to the most common topical areas of law practice, and comes with audio CDs and practice tests. This text is basically exercise-driven, composed primarily of terminology and comprehension exercises including reading, speaking, listening and analyzing activities. The International Legal English Certificate (ILEC) can be taken at the conclusion by passing the related exam. The topical index seems overly comprehensive, and, at the same time, may not cover the area of law that you practice in, so be sure to inquire before purchasing this particular book unless it is the text for a course and/or you are seeking to sit for the ILEC exam. For exercises to cement understanding, it is the best I've seen. This book, which is a complete course, is thorough and very well constructed. There are also a few exercises online that compliment it.

Legal English, Rupert Haigh (2004)

- Rupert Haigh's book is an excellent starting point for intermediate or advanced users of legal English for whom English is a second language, and that is its intent. In fact, this is the only book I have identified that specializes in legal English for the ESL environment. Haigh spends time on 'problem words' and good substitutes, the usual array of punctuation and grammar issues crossing cultures and languages, both. He includes very practical material on legal work tasks - with extensive material on, for example, letter writing, chairing a meeting, internal communications, telephone use, and making presentations. The final section of the book is devoted to contract language in English language contexts, and is the most excellent treatment of this that I have seen in print. He focuses on U.K. Legal English, making this book one of a kind.

Pocket Guide to Legal Writing, William Putman (2005)

- This spiral-bound paperback is compact and lightweight, with lots of details on basic grammar, word choice and formatting of sentences, arguments and materials, but is not in-depth on matters of style and preference. It's very cut-and-dry, hard to love. Putman points at resources for legal case information in the U.S., dry listings, but the most I have seen, outside of law school research and writing class, that is. It is published by West Legal Studies and Thomson-Delmar Learning. Especially good if you must use correct citation forms for articles and court documents, but aren't using the 'Blue Book.' It also has short sections discussing how best to structure a persuasive court brief, a legal memorandum of law, and other legal document types, but I preferred other sources for that information.

The Elements of Legal Style, Bryan A. Garner (2002)

- Brian Garner is Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious Black's Law Dictionary, but his approach is anything but stodgy. This book, published by Oxford University Press, looks at legal style in language, and includes his own set of 'rules' for usage, as well as a marvelous section explaining carefully the correct usages with examples, such as "Words and Expressions Confused and Misused." Garner also discusses such significant subjects as, for example, when it is useful to repeat, in what way tactics can be made more expressive, and how best to put forth a legal argument. He concludes with a sparkling collection of legal quotations on style. This is an excellent purchase for someone looking for advanced-direction in English usage in the law, regardless of the English country involved (U.K., U.S., Australia, New Zealand, etc), and includes many wonderful examples. Quite readable, too, for such heady topical stuff.

Legal Writing in Plain English – A Text With Exercises, Bryan A. Garner (2001)

- In this book published by the University of Chicago Press, Bryan Garner has assembled an interesting collection of exercises and instructions. He focuses a good deal of attention at the outset on how one should "frame one's thoughts" on a subject, and then proceeds to enhance our understanding of sentence phrasing options and word choices. I liked this preferatory work-up. We can all use this, for initial learning or for refreshing and revising our approaches. He includes principles for legal drafting, while also going into the detail of document design, discussing American standards – both those we might keep and those that should be abandoned. The great strength in Garner's materials is that he takes good firm positions on what is best-usage in legal English, explains clearly why, and is fun to read. If one has the time to devote, this is a wonderful book for the advanced student, learner and practitioner.

The Winning Brief – 100 Tips for Persuasive Briefing in Trial and Appellate Courts, Bryan A. Garner (2003)

- Yes, another by Garner, and this one is as wonderful, diverse and as instructional as his others, but in specific ways related to English drafting and argumentation in the context of litigation. Therefore, I have to say, this is the boutique book for the litigator who actually wants to improve his or her English (that is, if there are some few of them out there). The first 50 tips are inside the front cover, and the last 50 tips are inside the back cover. The meat is, thankfully, between the covers, and in useful sweet doses: each tip is introduced by 'quotable quotes,' and includes an explanation and applications. Tips are particularized in other ways that endear me to this volume, including subtitles such as "Two Qualms Answered," "Uncommonly Good Examples," "Egregious Examples," etcetera. You get the drift: now, how can you resist it? I would like to suggest that this is the book for both every good litigator...and every good armchair litigator and lover of legal English. So ... Enjoy! Across the board, this was the most 'fun' book to read, and I note that its substantive and universal logic and consistency will cross cultures without much difficulty.

Legal Writing: Sense & Nonsense, David Mellinkoff (1982)

- Despite its age, I like this book very much, and it is still available second-hand if out of print. Mellinkoff, who taught Legal Writing at the University of California, Los Angeles for many years, assembled this text as an outgrowth of his work with his students. As a result, it is organized in a humorous and simplifying manner, and makes the many miscellaneous aspects of this subject easy to grasp and recall. Professor Mellinkoff sets out his "Seven Rules" for better legal writing. Each is easy to understand and is followed by a complete outline of each rule's applications. One can easily improve one's legal writing by leaps and bounds by working through 'the rules.' This is a good American-based book for any intermediate or beginning legal English writer, regardless of their country of origin or practice.

English for Contract and Company Law, 2nd Edition, Marcella Chartrand, Catherine Millar & Edward Wiltshire, Thomson Publishers, London, 2003

- This wonderful book is a star in its class, with such a rich depth of materials on contracts and company scenarios that the individual who is interested in self-study will find plenty to keep them busy for weeks on end. The format includes several chapters on each of various contract and company scenarios. The case details are included - in all their complexity. This involves the student at a deep level in the reading exercise. Questions are then put forth regarding the cases which pose issues requiring the use of vocabulary, as well as a grasp of the legal principles in operation, to answer varied types of quizzing questions. The exercises are interesting and not only reinforce 'legal English' learning, but also correct misconceptions as to the meaning of specific legal constructs – for example, the intention of ordering what we call 'damages' as a remedy in court. Exercises also include guidance in the form of notes, or tips, useful to even a seasoned practitioner. I recommend this highly to the individual who has to rely on self-study in these topical areas, especially at the advanced level. In other words, this resource really teaches law as well as the language, which makes it an effective learning tool on both levels. The context is British English, but the import is international in scope. As usual with the exercise books, a key in the back provides the answers.

English for Law, Alison Riley, LL.B., Longman Publishers, Pearson Educated Ltd., 2007.

- I like the context within which this book is offered. First, its stated audience: everyone who is interested in law and works with law; and second, its perspective: British, but examining the overall context of western systems of law. The book opens with a chapter examining law school curriculum at Cambridge. The student is guided to understand ever more, as he progresses from titles to descriptions. There is time for grammar and also vocabulary, as the exercises unfold throughout the materials. This is also one of the few books I've seen that tackles public law, with a European Court of Human Rights law case. I like the coverage of topics in this book, which range from discussion of share issues and crime reports to international human rights, contracts, and judicial and constitutional concerns. The usual key in back, and a friendly and supportive feel throughout.

In the category of "Honorable Mentions"

Reference Manual on Scientific Evidence, Federal Judicial Center (2000)

- This paperback manual, originally released in 1994, can now be downloaded in its entirety online, at: [http://www.fjc.gov/public/pdf.nsf/lookup/sciman00.pdf/\\$file/sciman00.pdf](http://www.fjc.gov/public/pdf.nsf/lookup/sciman00.pdf/$file/sciman00.pdf) . Wow! What a great resource!
- Not only is this an American scientific evidence litigation practitioner's dream come true, but its guidance goes beyond its applicability to the U.S. federal courts. It covers not only matters of assessing one's case's strengths, but to identifying the types of data most useful, how they are presented and supported, and their strengths and weaknesses - this, for a broad array of scientific case types. It also refers readers to other materials complimentary to their pursuits.

- See more listings on the following page -

Meeting and Making Objections II, Judge Robert A. Wenke (1986).

- Here is a small-sized paperback, published by Richter Publications that I purchased at the Chicago Law Book Company years ago. Dated, but timeless in its appeal, and especially useful for the new American litigator. It is organized in such a way that the litigator getting his or her feet wet can thumb through the 48 thumb-indexed sections to find the objection they plan to make - or respond - as appropriate. A fair amount of self-study of this small gem is invaluable, as each objection is gathered together, with its definition, examples, criteria, and common appearances. Judge Wenke adds to these with particular usefulness by posing the blank forms of the questions for each, as well as the usage of those involved in both the latitude and restrictions available during cross-examination. Are you going to sound correct on transcript? Don't doubt it. You will have to update your specific case's references in preparation (cases Shephardized, latest evidentiary limits, etc.), but you would already have to do that before court. This book is the basic litigator's 'objections language toolbox,' right here. A little marvel of a booklet, ready for the pocket, pocketbook, courtroom and hearing room. This is still in print and available for purchase from a number of online suppliers.

Getting To Yes – Negotiating An Agreement Without Giving In, Roger Fisher, William Ury, and Bruce Patton (1999).

- This simple and straightforward text is used by both business people, law students and lawyers, and deals in issues of language and presentation that cross cultures and disciplines. Not a 'legal English' textbook, per se, its value to the lawyer working in English is easy to grasp. It is also available in over 20 different languages besides English.

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