

Glossary English Spanish

Term	Definition	Translation
AID AND ABET (v)	To help or assist in committing a crime.	Instigar y auxiliar; ayudar y encubrir
ABATE (v)	To put an end to; to cancel.	
ABUSE (v)	To do physical, sexual or psychological harm to someone.	Abusar (de)
ABUSE (n)	Improper use or harm. Ex: abuse of power; spousal abuse.	Abuso (el)
ACCESSORY (n) - before the fact - after the fact	A person who helps someone else commit a crime, either -before the crime -after the crime.	Cómplice -cómplice instigador -cómplice encubridor
ACCOMPLICE (n)	A person who helps someone else commit a crime.	Cómplice, coauthor, copartícipe
ACCUSATION (n)	A formal charge against a person.	Acusación
ACCUSED (n)	The person who is charged with a crime and has to go to criminal court. (See Defendant)	Acusado, imputado, inculpado (Mx), defendido, sindicado (Col, Ec, Ven)
ACKNOWLEDGE (v)	To say or testify that something is true.	Reconocer, admitir, atestar
ACQUIT (v)	To find a person charged with a crime not guilty. To set free or release a person who has been accused of a crime.	Absolver, exculpar, exonerar
ACQUITTAL (n)	A decision by a judge or jury that a person on trial is not guilty.	Declaración de no culpable
AD LITEM, GUARDIAN (n)	A person appointed by the court to protect the interests of a minor or a mentally incompetent adult.	Un guardián ad litem es una persona nombrada por el tribunal para proteger los intereses de un menor o de un individuo legalmente incompetente en una demanda.
ADDICT (n)	A person who is dependent on a drug or alcohol. The condition of being addicted to a drug or	Un adicto/una adicta

ADDICTION (n)	alcohol.	
ADJOURN (v)	To delay a court hearing until a later time.	Dar por terminada/levantar la sesión
ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE (n)	Evidence that can be legally and properly used in court.	Prueba admisible
ADMISSION (n)	Saying that certain facts are true, but <u>not</u> saying that you are guilty. (see Confession)	Admisión
ADVERSE WITNESS (n)	A person called to testify for the other side.	testigo adverso, testigo contrario
AFFIDAVIT (n)	A written statement made under oath in front of a legally authorized person, like a judge or a notary public.	Affidavit, declaración jurada por escrito, testimonio
AFFIRM (v)	To say that the lower court's decision was correct.	Afirmar, confirmar, ratificar
AGENT (n)	A person who acts for another person or legally represents him or her.	Agente
AGGRAVATED (adj)	Adjective that describes circumstances of a crime that may add to the degree of punishment (for example: aggravated murder refers to a murder committed while committing another crime); -aggravated arson -aggravated battery	Agravado, grave -incendio agravado -agresión grave
ALLEGE (v)	To say or claim that a crime has been committed even though it is not proven.	Alegar, sostener
ALLEGED (adj)	Stated, claimed, asserted, charged.	Presunto, supuesto
ALLEGATION (n)	A statement that is made but has not yet been proven to be true or false.	Alegación
ALIAS (n)	Term used to indicate another name by which a person is known.	También/más conocido por
ALIBI (n)	A defense that places the defendant at the time of a crime in a different place than the scene involved, so that he/she cannot possibly be guilty.	Coartada
ALIMONY (n)	Money the court orders one spouse to pay to the other after a divorce.	Pensión alimenticia, manutención conyugal

ANONYMOUS (adj)	Nameless, unknown, unsigned, lacking a name.	Anónimo
APPEAR (v)	To physically go to court.	Comparecer ante un tribunal, comparecer ante un juez
APPELLANT (n)	A person who appeals a court's decision.	Apelante
APPELLEE (n)	A person who answers an appeal to go to a higher court.	Apelado
ARGUMENT (n)	Remarks made by an attorney to a judge or jury about the facts of the case.	Alegato
ARRAIGN (v)	To bring an accused person before the court to hear the criminal charges.	Formular cargos
ARRAIGNMENT (n)	Court appearance of the accused person, when he/she is told about the charges against him/her and is asked to plead "guilty" or "not-guilty."	Instrucción de cargos, lectura de cargos
ARREARAGE (n)	Amount of child support that is overdue or unpaid.	Atraso
ARREST (v)	To keep a person in custody.	Detener, arrestar
ARSON (n)	Intentional burning of a house, commercial or industrial property.	Incendio premeditado
ASSAULT (v)	To try to hurt or threaten to hurt someone else. (This is not battery. See BATTERY)	Agresión
ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON (n)	Doing bodily harm without justification by use of any weapon intended to do harm.	Agresión con arma mortal
ATTEMPT (v)	To try to do a criminal act or to commit a crime	Tentativa
ATTORNEY (n)	A legally trained person who represents clients in court and gives them legal advice. (See Lawyer, Counselor)	Abogado, letrado, licenciado
BAIL (n)	A deposit of money given to release a defendant or witness to make sure he/she returns to court.	Fianza, caución
BAILIFF (n)	Person in charge of security in the courtroom. He/She assists the judge.	Alguacil, guardia de sala
BANKRUPTCY (n)	The condition of a person who is unable to pay	Bancarrota, quiebra

	his/her debts.	
BATTERY (n)	Illegal physical violence or control of a person without his or her permission. (Compare with ASSAULT)	Agresión violenta
BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT (Prep. phrase)	In a criminal case, the jury must be convinced that every element of the crime has been proven by the Prosecution.	Más allá de toda duda razonable, fuera de toda duda razonable
BIND OVER (v)	Action of a judge who decides before a trial that there is enough evidence for a trial.	Obligar a comparecer
BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT (BAC) (n)	The level of alcohol in your blood or breath	Medida de alcohol en la sangre
BLOOD TEST (n)	A test of your blood to determine how much alcohol or drugs are in your body. A test to determine who is the parent of a child.	Examen de sangre
BOOK (v) BOOKING (n)	Action of the police who arrest you, take your fingerprints, photographs and personal information.	Fichar Ficha policial
BRANDISH A WEAPON (v)	To show a weapon to another person, such as the police or a victim.	Blandir un arma
BREAKING AND ENTERING (n)	Going into someone's house at night with intent to commit a serious crime.	Ingreso violento y sin autorización
BREATHALYZER TEST (n)	A test of your breath to determine the level of alcohol in your body.	Examen de aliento Prueba de alcoholemia
BRIBE (v) (n)	To give money (or something of value) to influence another person to do or not do something.	Soborno
BURDEN OF PROOF (n)	The requirement that the plaintiff (the party bringing a civil lawsuit) show by a "preponderance of evidence" or "weight of evidence" that all the facts necessary to win a judgment are presented and are probably true.	Carga de la prueba, carga probatoria
BURGLARY (n)	Act of unlawfully breaking into or entering a building or home, with the intent to commit a theft or other serious crime.	Robo con escalo, violación de domicilio Allanamiento de morada
CAPACITY (n)	A person's legal or mental ability to make legal decisions.	Capacidad

CAPITAL CASE (n)	A criminal case where the defendant may get the death penalty.	Caso punible con pena de muerte
CAPITAL CRIME (n) CAPITAL OFFENSE (n)	A crime punishable by death.	Delito punible con pena de muerte
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT (n)	Punishment by death.	Pena de muerte Pena capital
CARJACKING (n)	Action of taking a car/truck that belongs to someone else against his will, by means of force or fear.	Robo de vehículo
CASE (n)	Lawsuit filed in criminal, civil or traffic court.	Causa, caso
CEASE AND DESIST ORDER (n)	An order of an administrative agency or court prohibiting a person or business from continuing to do something.	Orden de cesar y desistir
CERTIFIED COPY (n)	An official copy of a paper from a case file that is marked as being true, complete, and a real copy of the original legal case.	Copia certificada
CHALLENGE (n) (v)	Someone's right to object to or oppose an accusation in a legal case.	Impugnación
CHAMBERS (n)	A judge's private office.	Cámara
CHANGE OF VENUE (n)	Moving a civil or criminal case from one court jurisdiction to another.	Traslado de competencia traslado de jurisdicción
CHARACTER EVIDENCE (n)	Evidence about a criminal defendant's character.	Prueba de carácter
CHARGE (n)	In criminal law, what the defendant is accused of.	Cargo, acusación
CHIEF JUDGE (n)	Presiding or Administrative Judge in a court.	Primer magistrado
CHILD ABUSE (n)	Hurting a child physically, sexually or emotionally.	Abuso de niños Malos tratos a un menor
CHILD ABDUCTION (n)	The offense of taking away a child by deceit and persuasion, or by violence.	Secuestro, rapto o sustracción de un menor
CHILD MOLESTATION (n)	Any form of indecent or sexual activity on, involving, or surrounding a child under the age of 18.	Abuso sexual de menores

CHILD SUPPORT (n)	Money paid by a parent to help support a child or children.	Sustento de menor
CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE (n)	Evidence in a trial which is not directly from an eyewitness or participant and which requires some reasoning to prove a fact.	Prueba circunstancial
CITATION (n)	A court order or summons that tells a defendant what the charges are. Also tells the defendant to go to court and/or post bail.	Citación
CIVIL ACTION (n)	An action brought to enforce or protect private rights. Any action other than criminal proceedings.	Juicio civil
CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION (n)	Violation of the personal rights guaranteed and protected by the U.S. Constitution.	Violacion de derechos civiles
CLAIM (n)	The statement of a right to money or property.	Demanda
CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE (n)	Standard of proof commonly used in civil lawsuits. It governs the amount of proof that must be offered in order for the plaintiff to win the case.	Prueba clara y convincente
CLERICAL ERROR (n)	An unintentional mistake, in writing, which may be made by a clerk, counsel, or court.	Error clerical error de escritura o de anotación
CLERK (n) COURT CLERK (n)	Officer of the court who files pleadings, motions, judgments, etc., issues process, and keeps records of court proceedings.	Secretario del tribunal
CLOSING ARGUMENT (n)	Counsel's final statement to the judge/and or jury after all parties have presented all their evidence.	Argumento final Alegatos finales ante juez or jurado
CODE (n)	Book that contains all the laws. Ex: Labor Code, Civil Code, Criminal Code.	Código código civil, código penal
CO-DEFENDANT (n)	In a criminal case, a person charged with involvement in the same crime as another.	Coacusado, coprocesado
COERCION (n)	Forcing someone to do something by threat.	Coercion, coacción

COHABITATION (n)	Living with another person	Cohabitación
COMMIT (v)	To do something illegal, “to commit” a crime	Cometer (un delito), delinquir
COMMITMENT (n)	The action of sending a person to prison or a mental institution.	Confinamiento
COMMITMENT ORDER (n)	The order directing an officer to take a person to prison or to a mental institution.	Orden de confinamiento
COMMON LAW (n)	Laws that come from court decisions and not from statutes, “codes, ” or constitutions.	Derecho consuetudinario
COMMUNITY OBLIGATIONS (n)	Debts that a husband and wife owe together.	Comunidad de obligaciones
COMMUNITY PROPERTY (n)	Everything that a husband and wife own together. Anything either spouse bought with money earned during the marriage.	Comunidad de bienes matrimoniales
COMMUNITY SERVICE (n)	Work performed as punishment for a crime. It may also be performed instead of a fine, or as a condition of probation.	Servicio comunitario
COMMUTATION (n) COMMUTE (v)	The reduction of a prison sentence, such as from 10 years to 5 years.	Conmutación conmutar
COMPENSATORY DAMAGES (n) DAMAGES (n)	Money that one person must pay another to cover the cost of a wrong or injury.	Daños compensatorios indemnización
COMPETENCY ORDER (n)	An order from a court that says that a defendant is mentally able to go to trial.	Orden de competencia
COMPETENCY (n)	The ability of a person to understand and communicate, especially with regard to standing trial and assisting counsel in his or her defense.	Competencia
COMPLAINANT (n)	Person who wants to start a court case against another person. In a civil case, the complainant is the PLAINTIFF. In a criminal case, the complainant is the STATE.	Reclamante en un caso civil, el reclamante es el demandante querellante, denunciante, peticionario, acusador (criminal)
COMPLAINT (n)	The legal document that usually begins a civil lawsuit or a criminal case.	Escrito de demanda (civ)
CONCEALMENT (n)	Withholding information which one is required to reveal.	Ocultación

CONCURRENT SENTENCES (n)	Sentences you can serve at the same time.	Sentencia simultánea
CONFESSION (n)	When a person admits orally or in writing that he/she committed an offense or a crime.	Confesión
CONFIDENTIAL RECORD (n)	Information in a court case that is not available to the public.	Registro confidencial
CONFISCATE (v)	Action of taking away property temporarily for security or legal reasons.	Confiscar
CONFRONTATION RIGHT (n)	Defendant's right to be face-to-face with the witnesses against him or her.	Derecho de confrontación o careo
CONSECUTIVE SENTENCES (n)	Successive sentences, one beginning at the end of another, imposed against a person convicted of two or more violations.	Sentencias consecutivas
CONSENT (n)	A written agreement to obey a decision or deal.	Consentimiento
CONSPIRACY (n)	When two or more persons agree to commit a crime.	Conspiración, asociación para delinquir
CONSTITUTION (n)	The rules, principles and descriptions of the government's power, and the main rights that the people of a country or state have.	Constitución
CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT (n)	A right guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution, interpreted by the federal courts.	Derecho constitucional
CONTEMPT OF COURT (n)	Disobeying a court order. Punishment can be a fine or jail.	Desacato al tribunal
CONTINUANCE (n)	Delaying a court case to a later date.	Aplazamiento, continuación
CONTRACT(n)	-An agreement between two or more people to do or not to do a particular thing; -An agreement between two or more people that makes, changes, or ends a legal relationship.	Contrato
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE (n)	A drug or chemical whose manufacture, possession, or use is regulated by a government, such as illicitly used drugs or	Sustancia regulada/controlada

	prescription medications that are designated by law.	
CONVICT (n)	A person who has been found guilty of a crime and is serving a sentence for that crime; a prison inmate.	Convicto, reo, penado
CONVICT (v)	To find a person guilty of an offense by either a trial or a plea of guilty	Declarar/hallar/juzgar culpable
CONVICTION (n)	Decision by a judge or jury when they find a criminal defendant guilty.	Fallo de culpabilidad, fallo condenatorio
COUNSEL (n)	Lawyer, attorney, legal representative	Abogado, asesor jurídico
COUNT (n)	Each separate charge in a criminal case.	Cargo, acusación
COUNTERFEIT (v)	To forge, to copy or imitate, without authority or right, and with the purpose to deceive by passing off the copy as genuine.	Falsificar
COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL (n)	A defense attorney assigned by the court to represent a defendant who cannot afford to hire an attorney.	Abogado designado por el tribunal
COURT (OR BENCH) TRIAL (n)	A trial without a jury. A judge decides the case.	Juicio en tribunal
CRIME (n)	Something you do, or don't do, that breaks a law.	Delito
CRIMINAL (n)	Someone convicted of a felony or a misdemeanor.	Delincuente, criminal
CRIMINAL INSANITY (n)	Lack of mental ability to do or keep from doing a particular act; not able to distinguish right from wrong.	Demencia criminal
CRIMINAL RECORD (n)	Arrest record. A written account listing all the instances in which a person has been arrested. A form completed by a police officer when a person is arrested.	Registro criminal
DAMAGES (n)	Money that the losing side must pay to the winning side for losses or injuries.	Daños y perjuicios

DEADLY WEAPON (n)	Any weapon, instrument or object that is capable of being used to inflict death or great bodily injury.	Arma mortífera
DEATH PENALTY (n)	Death imposed by the government as punishment for a serious crime.	Pena de muerte
DECEDENT (n)	In criminal law, a murder victim; in civil law, a dead person.	Difunto
DEFENDANT (n)	In a civil case, the person or company being sued. In a criminal or traffic case, the person accused of the crime.	En lo civil: demandado, parte demandada en lo penal: acusado, imputado, encausado, procesado.
DEFENSE ATTORNEY (n)	In a criminal case, the lawyer that represents the accused person (the “defendant”).	Abogado defensor
DELIBERATE (v)	To consider all the evidence related to a case that was presented in court.	Deliberar
DEPORTATION (n)	The act of removing a person to another country. An order issued by an immigration judge, expelling an illegal resident from the United States.	Deportación
DEPOSITION (n)	Written or oral testimony given under oath in front of an authorized third person like a court reporter or attorney.	Deposición judicial
DETENTION (n)	When a person is temporarily kept in jail until the court makes a final decision.	Detención
DIRECT EVIDENCE (n)	Evidence in the form of a witness’s testimony, who actually saw, heard, or touched the subject in question.	Prueba directa
DISCOVERY (n)	The gathering of information (facts, documents or testimony) before a case goes to trial.	Exhibición/divulgación entrega de pruebas
DISCRIMINATION (n)	Unfair treatment or denial of normal privileges on the basis of sex, age, race, nationality, religion or handicap.	Discriminación

DISMISS (v)	To terminate a legal action involving outstanding charges against a defendant in a criminal case.	Desestimar
DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE (n)	Action of a court when it dismisses a case and will not allow any other suit to be filed on the same claim in the future.	Sobreseimiento libre/definitivo
DISMISSAL WITHOUT PREJUDICE (n)	When a court dismisses a case, but will allow other suits to be filed on the same claim.	sobresiimiento provisional
DISORDERLY CONDUCT (n)	Any behavior, contrary to law, which disturbs the public peace.	Conducta desordenada
DISSOLUTION (n)	The act of terminating a marriage.	Disolución
DISTURBING THE PEACE (n)	Conduct which tends to annoy other people, including making unnecessary and distracting noise.	Perturbar la paz
DIVORCE (n)	The common name for a marriage that is legally ended.	Divorcio
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (n)	An assault committed by one member of a household against another	Violencia doméstica
DOMICILE (n)	The place where a person has his/her permanent legal home.	Domicilio
DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED (DWI) (n) DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI) (n) DRUNK DRIVING (n)	The unlawful operation of a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.	DWI: manejar intoxicado, conducción bajo efectos etílicos dui: conducir bajo los efectos de sustancias que alteran el comportamiento
DURESS (n)	Any illegal imprisonment or threats of bodily harm in order to force another person to do something contrary to his/her free will.	Coerción
EMBEZZLE (v)	To take property from a person to whom the property has been entrusted.	Desfalcar (<i>capital de particulares</i>) ; malversar (<i>fondos públicos</i>)
ENTER A GUILTY PLEA (v)	To file a formal statement with the court that the accused admits committing the criminal act.	Presentar una declaración de culpabilidad
EVICT (v)	To expel a person from a property with	Desalojar

EVICTION (n)	<p>especially with the support of the law.</p> <p>The act of removing a person from a premises with a court judgment.</p>	desalojo, desahucio
EXCESSIVE FORCE (n)	The use of an unreasonable amount of force by a police officer.	Fuerza excesiva
EXCLUSIONARY RULE (n)	The rule preventing illegally obtained evidence to be used in a trial.	Regla de exclusión
EXCULPATORY EVIDENCE (n)	Evidence which tends to indicate that a defendant did not commit the alleged crime.	Prueba exculpatoria
EXECUTE (v)	<p>To carry out all terms of a contract or court order;</p> <p>to sign a document;</p> <p>to kill.</p>	<p>Desempeñar, ejecutar;</p> <p>formalizar (un documento);</p> <p>ajusticiar, ejecutar</p>
EXECUTION (n)	A court order given to a sheriff authorizing him/her to carry out the court's judgment.	Desempeño
EXONERATE (v)	To clear of blame or responsibility.	Exonerar
EX PARTE PROCEEDING (n)	A legal proceeding in which only one side is represented.	Procedimiento a petición de una de las partes solamente
EXPUNGEMENT (n)	Official erasure of a criminal record or partial contents of a criminal record.	La eliminación oficial de antecedentes penales
EXTORTION (n)	The act of obtaining the property of another person through wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear.	Extorsión
EXTRADITION (n)	Bringing a person that is in custody in one	Extradición

	state or country to the authorities of another state or country where that person has been accused or convicted of a crime.	
EYE WITNESS (n)	A person who actually saw the act, fact, or transaction to which he/she testifies.	El/la testigo presencial
FAILURE TO APPEAR (n)	The act of not appearing in court after being presented with a subpoena or summons.	Incomparecencia
FAILURE TO COMPLY (n)	The act of not following an order that is given by the court or police.	Incumplimiento
FEE WAIVER (n)	Permission not to pay the court's filing fees. People with very low income can ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form.	Exención de tarifas,
FELONY (n)	A serious crime that can be punished by more than one year in prison or by death.	Delito mayor, delito grave
FELONY MURDER (n)	A murder committed during the commission of a felony such as robbery, burglary, or kidnapping.	Homicidio preterintencional
FIFTH AMENDMENT (n)	You cannot be forced to testify against yourself in court. You have the right to refuse to answer a question that might incriminate your.	La quinta enmienda
FILE (v)	When a person officially gives a paper to a court clerk and that paper becomes part of the record of a case.	Entablar (civil), radicar, formular, presentar (criminal)
FIND GUILTY (v)	When the judge or jury determines the guilt of the defendant.	Declarar culpable
FINE (n)	The money a person must pay as punishment for doing something illegal or for not doing something they were supposed to do.	Multa, pena pecuniaria
FINGERPRINT (n)	The distinctive pattern of lines on human fingertips that are used as a method of	Huella digital/dactilar

	identification in criminal cases.	
FIREARM (n)	A weapon such as a rifle, shotgun or revolver	Arma de fuego
FORFEIT (v)	To lose, or lose the right to something.	Perder el derecho a
FORGERY (n)	To use someone else's name and claim it is yours.	Falsificación
FOSTER CARE (n)	A program that gives money to a person, family, or institution to raise someone else's child.	La acogida temporal
FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT (n)	All persons born or naturalized in the United States—including former slaves—are guaranteed equal protection of the laws.	Decimocuarta enmienda
FRAUD (n)	Wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain.	Fraude, estafa
GAMBLING (n)	The act of betting money, or other thing of value, in a game of chance.	Juego
GRAND JURY (n)	A group of 16 to 23 citizens who listen to the prosecutor's evidence of criminal allegations and decide whether there is probable cause to believe a person committed a crime and to charge them with that crime.	Gran jurado, jurado de acusación
GRAND THEFT (n)	Taking the personal property of another person of a value in excess of an amount set by law with the intent to deprive the owner of it permanently. Often used for car theft.	Hurto mayor, robo mayor
GREAT BODILY INJURY (n)	Injury which involves a substantial risk of death, serious permanent disfigurement, or loss	Graves daños

	of function of any part of an organ of the body. This is a more serious than ordinary battery.	
GROSS NEGLIGENCE (n)	A negligent act which is reckless, which departs from the conduct of an ordinary, prudent person, and is contrary to a proper regard for human life.	Negligencia grave, culpa grave
GUARDIAN (n)	A person appointed by law to assume responsibility for incompetent adults or minor children.	Tutor
GUARDIAN AD LITEM (n)	An adult appointed by a court who represents a minor child or legally incompetent person.	Tutor ad litem
GUILTY (adj)	A court decision that a defendant committed a crime.	Culpable
GUILTY PLEA (n)	When a person admits in court that he/she is guilty of a crime.	Una declaración de culpable
HANDCUFFS (n)	Chains or shackles to secure a prisoner's hands.	Las esposas
HARASSMENT (n)	Words, gestures, and actions which tend to annoy, alarm, and verbally abuse another person.	Acoso
HEARING (n)	A formal court proceeding with the judge and opposing sides present, but no jury.	Audiencia, vista
HEARSAY (n)	Statements by a witness who did not see or hear the incident in question, but heard about it from someone else. Hearsay usually can't be used as evidence in court.	Testimonio de oídas
HEIR (n)	A person that has the right to inherit money or property from someone who dies with or	Heredero, heredera

	without a will.	
HIT AND RUN (n)	Crime in which the driver of a vehicle leaves the scene of an accident without identifying him/herself.	Delito: accidente de carretera en el que el culpable se da a la fuga:
HOMICIDE (n)	The unlawful killing of one human being by another.	Homicidio
HOSTILE WITNESS (n)	A witness whose testimony is not favorable to the party who calls him/her as a witness.	testigo hostil
HUNG JURY (n)	A jury whose members cannot agree upon a verdict.	Jurado estancado, jurado que no llega a un acuerdo jurado sin veredicto
IGNORANCE OF FACT (n)	The lack of knowledge of some fact relating to the subject matter at hand. It may sometimes be used as a defense.	Ignorancia de hecho
ILLEGAL (adj)	Against the law	Ilegal, ilícito
IMMUNITY (n)	A right to be excused from a duty or penalty.	inmunidad
IMPEACH A WITNESS (v)	To call into question the truthfulness of a witness.	<i>Desacreditar al testigo</i>
IMPOUND (v)	To take and keep an object (often a vehicle) in police custody.	Incautar
IMPRISON (v)	The act of putting or confining a person in prison.	Encarcelar, recluir
INADMISSIBLE (adj)	Something that cannot be admitted as evidence in a trial or hearing.	Inadmisible
INCARCERATE (v)	To put someone in jail or prison.	Encarcelar
INCEST (n)	The act of having sexual intercourse between persons so closely related that marriage between them would be unlawful.	Incesto

INCOMPETENCY (n)	Lack of capacity to understand the nature and object of the proceedings, to consult with counsel, and to assist in preparing a defense.	Incompetencia
INCRIMINATE (v)	To say that another person is responsible for criminal actions.	Incriminar
INDECENT EXPOSURE (n)	Showing private body parts in an indecent manner in a public place.	Exhibición impúdica, exhibición obscena
INDEMNITY (n)	An obligation to provide compensation (usually money) for a loss, hurt or damage.	Indemnización
INDICTMENT (n)	A formal charge by a grand jury saying there is enough evidence that the defendant committed the crime to justify having a trial. Used primarily for felonies.	Acta de acusación/pliego de acusación/auto de procesamiento de gran jurado
INDIGENT (adj)	A person who is poor, needy, and has no one to look to for support.	Indigente
INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PLAN (IEP)	Plan for a student who is entitled to special education services.	Programa de educación individualizado (servicios de educación especial)
INFORMANT (n)	An undisclosed person who confidentially discloses material information of a crime to the police, which is usually done in exchange for a reward or special treatment.	Informante
INFRACTION (n)	A minor violation of a law that is not a misdemeanor or a felony and can't be punished by time in prison. Example: a minor traffic offense.	Infracción, contravención
INITIAL APPEARANCE (n)	In criminal law, the hearing at which a judge determines whether there is sufficient evidence against a person charged with a crime to hold	Comparecencia inicial

	him/her for trial.	
INJUNCTION (n)	A court order that says a defendant can't perform, or must perform, a specific act.	Un requerimiento
INMATE (n)	A person confined to a prison or jail.	Preso
INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY (n)	A belief in the American legal system that all people accused of a criminal act are considered innocent until the evidence leaves no doubt in the mind of the court or the jury that the accused did commit the crime.	Inocente hasta que se demuestre su culpabilidad; inocente hasta que se pruebe lo contrario
INSANITY PLEA (n)	A claim by a defendant that he/she lacks the soundness of mind required by law to accept responsibility for a criminal act	Una defensa por demencia
INSTRUCTIONS (n)	The explanation of constitutional rights given by a judge to a defendant.	Instrucciones (La <i>explicación de derechos constitucionales</i> que el juez le da a un <i>acusado</i> .)
INTENT (n)	A resolve to do a particular criminal act.	Intención
INTERLOCUTORY (adj)	Something that is provisional; not final.	Interlocutorio
INTERROGATORY (n)	A written question asked by one party in a lawsuit which the opposing party must answer in writing.	Interrogatorio
INTESTATE (adj)	Not having made a will before your death.	In testado, sin haber hecho testamento
INTOXICATION (n)	A diminished ability to act with full mental and physical capabilities because of alcohol or drug consumption; drunkenness.	Ebriedad, intoxicación
INVESTIGATION (n)	A legal inquiry to discover and collect	Investigación

	facts.	
INVOLUNTARY MURDER (n) manslaughter	The unlawful killing of a human being in which there is no intention to kill or do grievous bodily harm, but that is committed with criminal negligence or during the commission of a felony.	Homicidio involuntario
IRRELEVANT (adj)	Evidence that is not sufficiently related to the matter at issue.	Inaplicable. no pertinente
ISSUE (n)	The disputed point between parties in a lawsuit.	Asunto en cuestión
ISSUE (v)	To send out officially. Example: A court issues an order.	Emitir, mandar.
JAIL (n)	A place used to hold persons convicted of misdemeanors or persons awaiting trial.	Cárcel
JEOPARDY (n)	In danger of being charged with or convicted of a crime.	Peligro
JOIN (v)	To unite or combine	Unir, juntar
JOINT TENANCY (n)	When two or more people own something and have rights of survivorship. This means that if one person dies, his or her share goes to the other person(s)	Pro indiviso
JOYRIDING (n)	Illegally taking a vehicle, without intent to deprive the owner permanently of the vehicle, often involving reckless driving.	Sustracción temporal de vehículo
JUDGE (n)	An elected or appointed public official with authority to hear and decide cases in a	El, la juez

	court of law.	
JUDGMENT (n)	The judge's final decision in a case.	Sentencia, fallo, decisión
JUDICIAL NOTICE (n)	A court's recognition of the truth of basic facts without formal evidence.	Notificación judicial
JURISDICTION (n)	<p>The legal authority of a court to hear and decide a case.</p> <p>The geographic area over which the court has authority to decide cases.</p> <p>The territory, subject matter, or persons over which lawful authority may be exercised by a court.</p>	<p>Competencia</p> <p>jurisdicción</p>
JUROR (n)	A member of the jury.	Miembro del jurado, jurado
JUROR, ALTERNATE (n)	Additional juror chosen in case of sickness or disability of another juror.	Jurado suplente
JURY (n)	A group of citizens picked according to law and authorized to decide a case.	Jurado
JURY FOREMAN (n)	The juror who is in charge of the jury during deliberations and speaks for the jury in court when announcing the verdict.	Presidente del jurado
JURY, HUNG (n)	A jury that is unable to agree on a verdict after a suitable period of deliberation.	Jurado dividido, jurado indeciso jurado sin veredicto
JURY INSTRUCTIONS (n)	Directions that the judge gives the jury before it decides a case. They tell the jury what laws apply to that particular case.	Instrucciones del jurado

JURY TRIAL (n)	A trial that is heard and decided by a jury.	Juicio por jurado
JUSTIFICATION (n)	A lawful or sufficient reason for one's acts or omissions.	Justificación
JUSTIFIABLE (adj)	Rightful; warranted or sanctioned by law; that which can be shown to be sustained by law; as justifiable homicide.	Justificado.
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE (n)	The killing of another human being without criminal intent, for example, an accidental shooting, or a killing in the course of self-defense.	Homicidio justificado
JUVENILE (n)	A person under 18 years of age; a minor.	Menor, joven
JUVENILE COURT (n)	A court having jurisdiction over cases involving children under 18.	Tribunal de menores
KIDNAPPING (n)	The taking or detaining of a person against his or her will and without lawful authority.	Secuestro, rapto
KNOWINGLY (adv)	With knowledge, willfully or intentionally with respect to a material element of an offense.	A sabiendas, conscientemente, con conocimiento de causa
LACK CAPACITY (v)	To lack competency, power or fitness. To be incapable of giving legal consent. To lack the fundamental ability to be accountable for your actions.	Incapacidad
LARCENY (n)	Stealing or theft.	Latrocinio, hurto, robo de poca importancia
LAWSUIT (n)	A civil action between two or more persons in the courts of law, not a criminal matter.	Demanda, pleito, litigio, juicio
LEADING QUESTION (n)	A question which instructs the witness how to answer or puts words in his mouth. Suggests to the witness the desired answer.	Pregunta capciosa, sugestiva, sugerente

LEASE (n)	An agreement for renting real estate.	Arrendamiento, alquiler
LEGAL AID (n)	Professional legal services available usually to persons or organizations unable to afford such services.	Asesoramiento legal gratuito asistencia letrada al detenido
LENIENCY (n)	Recommendation for a sentence less than the maximum allowed.	Indulgencia clemencia
LEVY (v)	To obtain money by legal process through seizure and/or sale of property.	Imponer
LEWD CONDUCT (n)	Behavior that is obscene or indecent. Refers to any act that is sexual in nature, and which would be considered indecent or shocking to a reasonable person.	Conducta lascivia
LIABILITY (n)	Legal debts and obligations.	Obligación; responsabilidad legal
LIABLE (adj)	Legally responsible.	Responsable
LIBEL (n)	False and malicious material that is written or published that harms a person's reputation.	Libelo
LIE DETECTOR (n)	A machine which records varying emotional disturbances when answering questions truly or falsely, as indicated by fluctuations in blood pressure, respiration, or perspiration.	Detector de mentiras
LIEN (n)	The right to keep a debtor's property from being sold or transferred until the debtor pays what he/she owes.	Derecho de retención, embargo preventivo
LIFE IMPRISONMENT (n)	A sentence where the convicted criminal is ordered to spend the rest of his/her life in prison.	Cadena perpetua, prisión perpetua
LINEUP (n)	A police identification procedure by which the suspect to a crime is presented, along with others, before the victim or witness to determine if the victim or witness can identify the suspect as the person who committed the crime.	Rueda de identificación, la rueda de reconocimiento

LITIGANT (n)	A party, or side involved in a lawsuit.	Litigante, contendiente
LITIGATION (n)	A case, controversy, or lawsuit.	Litigio, pleito (civil), juicio civil
LOITERING (n)	To linger or hang around in a public place or business where a person has no particular purpose. In many states, cities and towns have ordinances against <i>loitering</i> by which the police can arrest someone who refuses to "move along."	Holgazanería, vagancia, vagabundeo, merodeo
MAKE OR DRAW UP (v)	To produce in legal form; to prepare; to draft or compose (a contract, a petition, a complaint, an answer).	Hacer o crear elaborar, redactar
MALICE (n)	Hatred or hostility of one person toward another which may lead to doing a wrongful act without legal justification.	Dolo
MALICE AFORETHOUGHT (n)	Intending to kill another person or intending to do an act with knowledge that it is dangerous to human life.	Alevosía, premeditación
MALICIOUS MISCHIEF n)	Willful destruction of property, from actual ill will or resentment toward its owner or possessor.	Vandalismo
MALICIOUS PROSECUTION (n)	An action with the intention of injuring the defendant and without probable cause, and which ends in favor of the person prosecuted.	Prosecución maliciosa demanda de mala fé
MALICIOUSLY (adv)	In a way to annoy, or injure another, or an intent to do a wrongful act; it may consist of direct intention to injure, or of reckless disregard of another's rights.	Maliciosamente
MALPRACTICE (n)	Violation of a professional duty to act with reasonable care and in good faith without fraud or collusion. This term is usually applied to such conduct by doctors, lawyers, or accountants.	Conducta profesional ilegal o inmoral

MANDATE (n)	A judicial command or order proceeding from a court or judicial officer, directing the proper officer to enforce a judgment, sentence, or decree.	Mandato
MANDATORY (adj)	Required, ordered.	Obligatorio
MASSIAH MOTION (n)	A motion to exclude fraudulently obtained confessions.	Moción massiah – una moción para excluir las confesiones obtenidas fraudulentamente.
MATERIAL EVIDENCE (n)	Relevant evidence which tends to influence the judge and/or jury because of its logical connection with the issue.	Evidencia material
MATERIAL WITNESS (n)	In criminal trials, a witness whose testimony is crucial to either the defense or prosecution.	Testigo material
MAYHEM (n) (Also see aggravated assault)	A malicious injury which disables or disfigures another.	Mutilación criminal
MEDIATION (n)	A process in which people that are having a dispute are helped by a neutral person to communicate so they can reach a settlement acceptable to both.	Mediación
MEMORANDUM OF COSTS (n)	A certified, itemized statement of the amount of costs after judgment.	Memorándum de costos
MEMORIALIZE (v)	To mark by observation in writing.	Poner por escrito
MENACE (n)	A threat; the declaration or show of a disposition or determination to inflict an evil or injury upon another.	Amenaza
MENTAL HEALTH (n)	The wellness of a person's state of mind.	Salud mental
MENTAL INCAPACITY (n)	State of a person being found incapable of understanding and carrying on the everyday affairs of life due to a loss of reasoning faculties.	Incapacidad mental
MENTAL STATE (n)	Capacity or condition of one's mind in terms of ability to do or not to do a certain act.	Estado mental

MERITS (n)	A decision “on the merits” refers to a judgment, decision, or ruling of a court based upon the facts presented in evidence and the law applied to that evidence.	Méritos
MINOR (n)	A child under the age of 18 years. (See also JUVENILE).	Menor
MINUTE ORDER (n)	Document prepared by the clerk recording the orders of the clerk.	Minuta de orden
MIRANDA RIGHTS (n) MIRANDA WARNING (n)	Requirement that police tell a person who is arrested or questioned his or her constitutional rights before they question him or her: specifically, the right to remain silent; that any statement made may be used against him or her; the right to an attorney; and if the person cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed if he or she desires.	Derechos miranda (requiere que las autoridades policiales informen a una persona que es detenida o interrogada de sus derechos constitucionales antes de ser interrogada)
MISDEMEANOR (n)	A crime that can be punished by up to one year in jail.	Delito menor
MISTAKE (n)	Some unintentional act, omission, or error caused by ignorance, surprise, imposition, or misplaced confidence.	Error
MISTRIAL (n)	A trial that has been ended and declared void (of no legal effect) due to prejudicial error in the proceedings or other extraordinary circumstances.	Juicio nulo
MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES (n)	Facts which do not constitute a justification or excuse for an offense but which may be considered as reasons for reducing the degree of blame.	Circunstancias atenuantes
MITIGATING FACTORS(n)	Facts that do not constitute a justification or excuse for an offense but which may be considered as reasons for reducing the degree of blame.	Factores atenuantes

MODIFICATION (n)	A spoken or written request by one party asking the judge to make a decision or an order on a specific point.	Modificación
MOOT	A point or question related to a legal case that usually has no practical importance or relevance to the case. A moot point is a point that can't be resolved by the judge, is not disputed by either side, or is resolved out of court.	Discutible
MORAL TURPITUDE (n)	Immorality. An element of crimes morally bad, as opposed to crimes bad merely because they are forbidden by statute.	Inmoralidad
MOTION (n)	Oral or written request made by a party to an action before, during, or after a trial asking the judge to issue a ruling or order in that party's favor.	Moción
MOTION DENIED (n)	Ruling or order issued by the judge refusing the party's request.	Moción negada
MOTION GRANTED (n)	Ruling or order issued by the judge approving the party's request.	Moción otorgada
MOTION TO QUASH (n)	A request to make something null or ineffective, such as to "quash a subpoena."	Moción para anular
MOTION TO SEVER (n)	A request usually by defense, to have a separate trial as to either jointly tried defendants or jointly charged counts.	Moción para separar
MOTION TO SUPPRESS (n)	A request to suppress as evidence at trial things or statements obtained as a result of an allegedly illegal search and seizure (commonly referred to as 1538.5 PC motions.)	Moción para suprimir
MUG SHOT (n)	Pictures taken after a suspect is taken into custody (booked), usually used as an official photograph by police officers.	Ficha fotográfica
MURDER (n)	The unlawful killing of a human being with	Asesinato

	deliberate intent to kill.	
MURGIA MOTION (n)	A request made by defense counsel to dismiss based on a group of people being systematically discriminated against.	Moción murgia
NECESSITY (n)	Controlling force; irresistible compulsion; a power or impulse so great that it admits no choice of conduct.	Necesidad
NEGLECT (n)	Absence of care or attention in the doing or omission of a given act.	Descuido
NEGLIGENCE (n)	When someone fails to be as careful as the law requires to protect the rights and property of others	Negligencia
NEXT FRIEND (n)	A person acting without formal appointment as guardian for the benefit of an infant, a person of unsound mind not judicially declared incompetent, or other person under some disability.	Mejor amigo
NO TRUE BILL (n)	A legal procedure to dismiss charges against a defendant when the grand jury does not find enough evidence to charge the defendant with violating a law.	No ha lugar a procesamiento
NO-FAULT PROCEEDINGS (n)	A civil case in which parties may resolve their dispute without a formal finding of error or fault.	Proceso sin culpa
NOLO CONTENDERE (n)	Same as pleading guilty, except that your plea cannot be used against you in civil court. This can only be used in traffic or criminal court. Also called “no contest.”	"no quiero contender", "no voy a contestar" o "no refuto los cargos" hace referencia a una situación en la que, en un proceso judicial , la parte demandada no presenta un argumento o explicación que se pueda usar para probar que no es culpable o responsable de algo.
NON COMPOS MENTIS (n)	Not of sound mind; insane.	No en su sano juicio

NOT GUILTY	The form of verdict in criminal cases where the jury acquits the defendant.	No culpable
NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY (n)	The jury or the judge must determine that the defendant, because of mental disease or defect, could not commit the offense.	No culpable por razón de locura inocente por enajenación mental
NOTARY PUBLIC (n)	A person authorized to certify a person's signature, administer oaths, certify that documents are authentic, and take depositions.	Notario público
NOTICE (n)	Written information or warning. For example, a notice to the other side that you will make a motion in court on a certain date.	Advertencia
NOTICE OF MOTION (n)	A notice to the opposing party that on a certain date a motion will be made in court.	Advertencia de moción
NUISANCE (n)	That activity which arises from unreasonable, unwarranted or unlawful use by a person of his own property, and producing such material annoyance resulting in damage.	Molestia
NULL AND VOID	Having no force, legal power to bind, or validity.	Nulo y sin efecto
OATH (n)	When a witness promises to tell the truth in a legal proceeding.	Juramento
OBJECT (v)	To protest to the court against an act or omission by the opposing party.	Objetar
OBJECTION (n)	A formal protest made by a party over testimony or evidence that the other side tries to introduce in court.	Objeción
OBJECTION OVERRULED (n)	A ruling by the court upholding the act or omission of the opposing party.	Objeción denegada
OBJECTION SUSTAINED (n)	A ruling by the court in favor of the party making the objection.	Objeción sostenida
OFFENDER (n)	One who commits a crime, such as a felony, misdemeanor, or other punishable unlawful act.	Delincuente
OFFENSE (n)	An act that breaks the law; includes misdemeanors, felonies, and crimes.	Ofensa

OFFENSIVE WORDS (n)	Language that offends; displeasing or annoying language.	Palabras ofensivas
ON A PERSON'S OWN RECOGNIZANCE (n)	Release of a person from custody without the payment of any BAIL or posting of BOND, upon the promise to return to court.	Libertad bajo palabra
OPENING ARGUMENT (n)	The initial statement made by attorneys for each side, outlining the facts each intends to establish during the trial.	Exposición inicial
OPENING STATEMENT (n)	Same as opening argument	Alegato inicial
OPINION (n)	A judge's written explanation of a decision of the court or of a majority of judges. A dissenting opinion disagrees with the majority opinion because of the reasoning and/or the principles of law on which the decision is based. A concurring opinion agrees with the decision of the court but offers further comment.	Opinión
ORAL ARGUMENT (n)	The part of the trial when lawyers summarize their position in court and also answer the judge's questions.	Argumento oral
ORDER, COURT – (n)	(1) Decision of a judicial officer; (2) a directive of the court.	Orden del tribunal
ORDINARY NEGLIGENCE (n)	The failure to use the degree of care that an ordinary or reasonably prudent person would have used under the circumstances and for which the negligent person is liable.	Negligencia ordinaria
ORDINANCE (n)	A regulation made by a local government to enforce, control, or limit certain activities.	Ordenanza
ORIGINAL JURISDICTION (n)	The court in which a matter must first be filed.	Jurisdicción original
OVERRULE (v)	A judge's decision not to allow an objection. A decision by a higher court finding	Denegar Anular, invalidar, dejar sin efecto

	that a lower court decision was wrong.	
OVERT ACT (n)	An open act showing the intent to commit a crime.	Acto manifiesto
PARALEGAL (n)	A person with legal skills, but who is not an attorney, and who works under the supervision of a lawyer or who is otherwise authorized by law to use those legal skills.	Asistente de abogado
PARDON (v)	When the chief executive of a state or country releases a convicted person from the punishment given him or her by a court sentence.	Indulto
PARENS PATRIAE (n)	The power of the state to act in the parents' place to protect a child or his or her property.	Parens patriae
PAROLE (n)	Supervised release of a prisoner that allows the person to serve the rest of the sentence out of prison if all conditions of release are met.	Libertad condicional
PAROLE EVIDENCE (n)	Oral or verbal evidence rather than written.	Evidencia de libertad condicional
PARTY (n)	One of the sides of a case. The person who started the case is called the plaintiff or defendant. The person being sued is called the defendant or respondent.	Parte
-Aggrieved Party	A person who suffered the prejudice.	Parte perjudicada, agraviada
PAT DOWN SEARCH (n)	A limited search of the outer clothing of a person in an attempt to discover weapons which might be used to assault the officer and may be conducted if the officer has a reasonable belief that the detained person is armed and dangerous.	Cateo personal
PEACE OFFICER (n)	Includes sheriffs and their deputies, members of the police force of cities, and other officers whose duty is to enforce and preserve the public peace.	Oficial del orden público
PENALTY (n)	Punishment for breaking a law.	Pena

-PENALTY ASSESSMENT -PENALTY OF PERJURY	- An amount of money added to a fine. -A fine given for lying to the court.	-imposición de castigo -pena de perjurio
PENDING	The status of a case that is not yet resolved by the court.	Pendiente
PENITENTIARY (n)	A prison or place of confinement where convicted felons are sent to serve out the term of their sentence.	Penitenciaria
PEOPLE (PROSECUTION) (n)	A state, for example, the People of the State of Ohio.	Pueblo (acusación)
PERJURY (n)	A false statement made on purpose while under oath in a court proceeding.	Perjurio
PERMANENCY HEARING (n)	The hearing for children placed in or awaiting placement in foster care who were under age three at the time of detention, and for all children, to monitor the welfare of the child, evaluate the parents' reunification efforts and establish a permanent plan for the child.	Audiencia de permanencia
PERMANENT INJUNCTION (n)	A court order requiring that some action be taken, or that some party refrain from taking action. It differs from forms of temporary relief, such as a TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER or PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION.	Mandato permanente
PERMANENT RESIDENT (n)	A person's <i>resident</i> status in a country of which they are not citizens. This is usually for a <i>permanent</i> period; a person with such status is known as a <i>permanent resident</i> .	Residente permanente
PERSON IN NEED OF SUPERVISION (n)	Juvenile found to have committed a status offense (such as habitual truancy, violating a curfew, or running away from home). These are not crimes, but they might be enough to place a child under supervision.	Persona necesitada de supervisión
PERSONAL PROPERTY (n)	Things that you own and can move, like furniture, equipment, or paintings.	Bienes muebles

PERSONAL RECOGNIZANCE (n)	Pre-trial release based on the person's promise that he or she will appear for trial (no bond required). Also referred to as release on own recognizance or ROR. (See ON A PERSON'S OWN RECOGNIZANCE.)	Bajo palabra
PETITION (n)	A court paper that asks the court to take action. For example, in juvenile cases, the Petition starts the court case. (See MOTION.)	Petición
PETITIONER (n)	A person who presents a petition to the court	Peticionario
PETTY OFFENSE (n)	An offense for which the authorized penalty does not exceed imprisonment for 3 months or a fine of \$500.	Violación menor
PETTY THEFT (n)	The act of taking and carrying away the personal property of another of a value usually below \$100.00 with the intent to deprive the owner of it permanently.	Robo menor
PLAINTIFF (n)	The person or company that files a lawsuit.	Demandante
PLEA (n)	In a criminal case, the defendant's statement pleading "guilty" or "not guilty" in answer to the charges.	Declaración
PLEA BARGAIN (n)	An agreement between the prosecutor and the defendant. It lets the defendant plead guilty to a less serious charge, if the court approves.	Declaración negociada
PLEAD GUILTY OR INNOCENT (v)	To admit or deny committing a crime.	Declararse culpable o inocente
PLEADING (v)	Written statements filed with the court that describe a party's legal or factual claims about the case and what the party wants from the court.	Alegatos
Police custody (n)	When the accused is kept by the police and is deprived of freedom of action.	Detención policial
POSSESSION OF DRUGS (n)	The presence of illegal drugs on the accused for recreational use or for the purpose to sell.	Posesión de drogas

POSTPONEMENT (n)	To put off or delay a court hearing.	Aplazar
POWER OF ATTORNEY (n)	Formal authorization of a person to act in the interest of another person.	Poder de representación
PRECEDENT (n)	A court decision in an earlier case that the court uses to decide similar or new cases.	Precedente
PREJUDICE (n)	When an act or decision affects a person's rights in a negative way.	Prejuicio
PREJUDICIAL ERROR (n)	A mistake that is made in handling a trial resulting in harm to the complaining party.	Error perjudicial
PREJUDICIAL EVIDENCE (n)	Evidence which might unfairly sway the judge or jury to one side or the other.	Evidencia perjudicial
PRELIMINARY HEARING (n)	The hearing available to a person charged with a felony to determine if there is enough evidence (probable cause) to hold him/her for trial.	Audiencia preliminar
PREMEDITATION (n)	The planning of a crime before the crime takes place.	Premeditación
PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE (n)	To win a civil case, the plaintiff has to prove that most of the evidence is on his or her side.	Preponderancia de la evidencia
PRESENTENCE REPORT (n)	A report prepared by the probation department for the judge when sentencing a defendant. Describes defendant's background: financial, job, and family status; community ties; criminal history; and facts of the current offense.	Reporte de presentencia
PRESUMPTION (n)	An assumption that a proposition or fact is true or false but not yet proven.	Presunción
PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE (n)	Principle of criminal law that a person is innocent of a crime until proven guilty. The government has the burden of proving every element of a crime beyond a reasonable doubt	Presunción de inocencia

	and the defendant has no burden to prove his innocence.	
PRINCIPAL (n)	The source of authority or right.	Principal
PRINCIPALS (n)	Persons who are involved in committing or attempting to commit a crime. Includes those who directly and actively commit or attempt to commit the crime, or those who assist (aid and abet) in the commission or attempted commission of the crime.	Principales
PRIORS (n)	Previous conviction(s) of the accused.	Antecedentes
PRIOR INCONSISTENT STATEMENT (n)	Prior statements made by the witness which contradict statements the witness made on the witness stand.	Declaración previa contradictoria
PRISON (n)	A federal or state public building or other place for the confinement of persons. Also known as penitentiary, penal institution, adult correctional institution, or jail.	Prisión
PRIVACY, RIGHT OF (n)	The right to be left alone; the right of a person to be free from unwarranted publicity.	Privacidad, el derecho a la
PRIVILEGE (n)	An advantage not enjoyed by all; a special exemption from prosecution or other lawsuits. (See also IMMUNITY.)	Privilegio
PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS (n)	Confidential communications to certain persons that are protected by law against any disclosure, including forced disclosure in legal proceedings. Communications between lawyer and client, physician and patient, psychotherapist and patient, priest, minister, or rabbi and penitent are typically privileged.	Comunicaciones privilegiadas
<i>Pro se</i> (adj)	When a person represents him/herself in court without a lawyer.	Pro se
PROBABLE CAUSE (n)	A good reason to believe that a crime has or is being committed; the basis for all lawful	Causa probable

	searches, seizures, and arrests.	
PROBATE COURT (n)	The court with authority to deal with the estates of people who have died.	Tribunal testamentario
PROBATION (n)	A sentencing alternative to imprisonment in which the court releases a convicted defendant under supervision of a probation officer who makes certain that the defendant follows certain rules, for example, gets a job, gets drug counseling.	Libertad condicional
PROBATION OFFICER (n)	One who supervises a person placed on probation and is required to report the progress and to surrender them if they violate the terms and conditions of the probation.	Oficial de la libertad condicional
PRO BONO (adj)	Legal work done for free.	Pro bono
PROMISSORY NOTE (n)	A written document that says a person promises to pay money to another.	Nota de pago
PROOF (n)	Any fact or evidence that leads to a judgment of the court.	Prueba
PROOF OF SERVICE (n)	A form filed with the court that proves that court papers were properly delivered to someone.	Prueba de servicio
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (n)	A public officer who prosecutes criminal cases for the state. See PROSECUTOR and DISTRICT ATTORNEY.	Fiscal
PROSECUTION (n)	The party that starts a criminal case and files criminal charges. A common name for the state's side of the case.	Prosecución/fiscalía
PROSECUTOR (n)	A trial lawyer representing the government in a criminal case and the interests of the state in civil matters.	Acusador/fiscal
PROTECTIVE ORDER (n)	A court order to protect a person in a situation involving domestic violence, assault, harassment, stalking, or sexual assault from	Orden protectora

	further harassment and to instruct a person to stop abusing or harassing the petitioner (usually a related person) for a fixed period.	
Prove	To demonstrate the truth or existence of (something) by evidence or argument.	Demostrar, sustentar, comprobar
PUBLIC DEFENDER (n)	A lawyer picked by the court to represent a defendant who cannot afford a lawyer.	Defensor público/abogado de oficio
PUNITIVE DAMAGES (n)	Money awarded to an injured person, over and above the measurable value of the injury, in order to punish the person who hurt him/her.	Daños punitivos
QUASH	To overthrow, to vacate, to annul or to make void a decision.	Invalidar
<i>QUID PRO QUO</i> (n)	Something for something; giving one valuable thing for another.	Quid pro quo – una cosa por otra
Questioning (of witnesses)	The action of asking questions.	Interrogatorio
RAP SHEET (n)	A written summary of a person's criminal history.	Antecedentes penales
RAPE (n)	Unlawful intercourse with an individual without his/her consent.	Violación
RE (prep)	In the matter of; in the case of.	Con respecto a
REAL EVIDENCE (n)	Physical evidence that can be seen in the courtroom. <i>Real evidence</i> describes any <i>physical</i> object that has a direct connection to a crime or civil action	Pruebas materiales
REAL PROPERTY (n)	Land and buildings.	Bienes inmuebles, bienes raíces
REASONABLE DOUBT, BEYOND A	The degree of certainty required for a juror to legally find a criminal defendant guilty.	Má allá de toda duda razonable
REBUTTAL (n)	Evidence presented at trial by one party in	Refutación

	order to overcome evidence introduced by another party.	
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	Offense of receiving any property with the knowledge that it has been unlawfully taken, stolen, extorted, obtained, embezzled, or disposed of.	Recibir propiedad robada
RECIDIVISM (n)	The continued, habitual, or compulsive breaking the law after having been convicted of prior offenses.	Reincidencia
RECKLESS DRIVING (n)	Operation of a motor vehicle that shows a reckless disregard of possible consequences and indifference of others' rights.	Manejo temerario
RECORD (n)	The official papers that make up a court case.	Registro
REDACT (n)	To adapt, edit, or remove information for public record	Redactar
REDRESS (n)	To set right; to remedy; to compensate; to remove the causes of a grievance.	Compensación/reparación
REFEREE (n)	A person appointed by the court to hear and make decisions on limited legal matters, like juvenile or traffic offenses.	Árbitro
RELEVANT (adj)	Characterizes evidence that helps to prove a point or issue in a case.	Pertinente
RELINQUISHMENT (n)	The abandoning, renouncing, or giving over of a right.	Renuncia
REMAND (v)	(1) The act of an appellate court that sends a case to a lower court for further proceedings; (2) to return a prisoner to custody.	(1) Devolver (2) Reencarcelar
REMEDY (n)	The means by which a right is enforced or the violation of a right is prevented, redressed or compensated.	Remedio
REMOVAL (n)	The transfer of a state case to federal court for trial; in civil cases, because the parties are from different states; in criminal and some	Mudanza

	civil cases, because there is a significant possibility that there could not be a fair trial in state court.	
REPLY (n)	The response by a party to charges raised in a pleading by the other party.	Contestación
REPORT (n)	An official or formal statement of facts or proceedings.	Informe
<i>RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR</i> (n)	“Let the master answer.” The doctrine which holds that employers are responsible for the acts and omissions of their employees and agents, when done within the scope of the employees’ duties.	Respondeat superior – – "que el patrón responda."

RESPONDENT (n)	The person who answers the original Petition. Even if you later file an action of your own in that case, you are still the respondent for as long as the case is open.	Demandado
REST (v)	When a party in a case has presented all the evidence it intends to offer.	Terminar Dar por concluido
RESTITUTION (n)	Giving something back to its owner. Or, giving the owner something with the same value, like paying to fix his or her property .	Restitución
RESTRAINING ORDER (n)	A court order that tells a person to stop doing something for a certain amount of time, usually until a court hearing is held.	Orden de restricción
RETAINER (n)	Act of the client employing the attorney or counsel. Also, the fee the client pays when he or she retains the attorney to act for him or her.	Contrato para servicios de abogado mediante cuota provision de fondos
RETALIATION (n)	The act of harming someone in response to an injury that he/she has caused another.	Represalia
REUNIFICATION SERVICES (n)	Services that help parents get their children	Servicios de reunificación

	back after they are taken away.	
REVERSE (v)	Action of a higher court that overturns a lower court decision.	Revocar, anular
REVOKE (v)	To change or take back.	Revocar
ROBBERY (n)	The act of taking money, personal property, or any other article of value that is in the possession of another by means of force or fear.	Robo
RULE (n)	An established standard, guide, or regulation.	Regla
RULES OF EVIDENCE (n)	Standards governing whether information can be admitted and considered in a civil or criminal case.	Reglas de evidencia
Ruling (n)	A court decision.	Fallo, decisión
SANCTION (n)	Penalty meant to make someone obey the law. For example, a judge can order someone to pay for not following court orders.	Sanción
SATISFACTION OF JUDGMENT (n)	Payment of a judgment amount by the losing party.	Cumplimiento de sentencia
SEALING (n)	The closure of court records, except to the parties involved.	Sellar
SEARCH AND SEIZURE (n)	When a person or place is searched and evidence useful in the investigation and prosecution of a crime is taken. The search is conducted after an order is issued by a judge.	Registro e incautación
SEARCH WARRANT (n)	A written order by a judge that permits a law enforcement officer to search a specific place (such as an apartment or a car) to find specific people or things (such as a weapon, or controlled narcotics). A judge can order a search warrant when there is probable cause	Orden de registro o allanamiento

	(that is, a good reason to believe that a crime has or is being committed).	
SELF-DEFENSE (n)	The use of reasonable force to protect oneself or members of the family from bodily harm from the attack of an aggressor, if the defender has reason to believe he/she/they is/are in danger.	Defensa propia
SELF-INCRIMINATION (n)	Making statements or producing evidence which tend to prove that the speaker is guilty of a crime.	Auto-incriminación
SENTENCE (n)	A judge's formal pronouncement of the punishment to be given to a person convicted of a crime.	Sentencia
SENTENCE REPORT (n)	A document containing background material on a convicted person. It is prepared to guide the judge in the imposition of a sentence. Sometimes called a PRE-SENTENCE REPORT.	Informe de sentencia
SENTENCE, CONCURRENT (n)	Two or more sentences of jail time to be served at the same time.	Sentencia concurrente
SENTENCE, CONSECUTIVE (n)	Two or more sentences of jail time to be served one after the other.	Sentencia consecutiva

SENTENCE, SUSPENDED (n)	A sentence postponed in which the defendant is not required to serve time unless he or she commits another crime or violates a court-imposed condition.	Sentencia suspendida
SENTENCING (n)	The hearing where the court announces a person's punishment (sentence).	Sentencia
SEPARATION (n)	An arrangement where a husband and wife live apart from each other while remaining	Separación

	married either by mutual consent or by a judicial order.	
SEQUESTRATION OF WITNESSES (n)	Keeping all witnesses (except plaintiff and defendant) out of the courtroom except for their time on the stand, and cautioning them not to discuss their testimony with other witnesses. Also called separation of witnesses. This prevents a witness from being influenced by the testimony of another witness.	Secuestro de testigos
SERVE A SENTENCE (v)	To spend a required amount of time in a designated location such as a prison as punishment for the crime committed.	Servir una sentencia
SERVICE (n)	The delivery of a copy of the court papers to a party in person or by mail.	Servicio
SERVICE OF PROCESS (n)	The delivery of legal papers to the opposing party. The papers must be delivered by an adult aged 18 or older who is not involved in the case and who swears to the date and method of delivery to the recipient.	Servicio de proceso
SETTLEMENT (n)	When both sides reach an agreement that solves the case before the judge or jury makes a decision.	Acuerdo
SEVERANCE DAMAGES (n)	Compensation to any person who has suffered an economic loss as a consequence of being removed from employment.	Prejuicio por división
SEXUAL ABUSE / ASSAULT (n)	Unlawful sexual contact with another person.	Abuso sexual/agresión
SEXUAL BATTERY (n)	The forced penetration of or contact with another person's sexual organs.	Agresión sexual
SEXUAL HARASSMENT (n)	Sexual words, conduct, or action (usually repeated and persistent) that, being directed at a specific person, annoys, alarms, or causes substantial emotional distress in that person.	Acoso sexual
SEXUAL MOLESTATION (n)	Illegal sex acts performed against a minor by	Acoso sexual a menores

	an adult.	
SHOPLIFTING (n)	Taking and concealing merchandise from a store or business without paying the purchase price.	Ratería de tiendas
SHOW CAUSE (v)	To appear in court and present evidence why the orders requested by the other side should not be granted or carried out.	Mostrar causa
SIDEBAR (n)	When the judge and lawyers talk, usually in the courtroom, out of hearing of the jury and spectators.	Conferencia entre juez y abogados
SLANDER (n)	Defamation of a person's character or reputation through false or malicious oral statements. See DEFAMATION.	Calumnia
SMALL CLAIMS COURT (n)	A court that handles civil claims for \$5,000 or less. People often represent themselves rather than hire an attorney.	Tribunal de reclamos menores
SOLICITATION (n)	Getting someone else to commit a crime.	Solicitud
STANDARD OF PROOF (n)	There are essentially three standards of proof applicable in most court proceedings. In criminal cases, the offense must be proven BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT, the highest standard. In civil cases and neglect and dependency proceedings, the lowest standard applies by a mere PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE, (more likely than not). In some civil cases, and in juvenile proceedings such as a permanent termination of parental rights, an intermediate standard applies, proof by CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE.	Estándar de prueba
STATEMENT, CLOSING (n)	The final statements by the attorneys to the jury or court summarizing the evidence that they have established and the evidence that the other side has failed to establish. Also known	Declaración final

	as CLOSING ARGUMENT.	
STATEMENT, OPENING (n)	Outline or summary of the nature of the case and of the anticipated proof presented by the attorney to the jury before any evidence is submitted. Also known as OPENING ARGUMENT.	Declaración inicial
STATEMENT OF FACT (n)	Any written or oral declaration of facts in a case.	Declaración de hecho
STATUS OFFENDERS (n)	I	Infractor de estatus
STATUTE (n)	A law passed by Congress or a state legislature.	Estatuto
STATUTORY (n)	Relating to a statute; created, defined, or required by a statute.	Estatuido
STATUTORY LAW (n)	Law enacted by the legislative branch of government, as distinguished from CASE LAW or COMMON LAW	Ley reglamentaria
STATUTORY RAPE (n)	The unlawful sexual intercourse with a person under an age set by statute, regardless of whether he/she consents to the act.	Violación estatutaria
STAY (n)	The act of stopping a judicial proceeding by order of the court.	Suspensión
STRICKEN EVIDENCE (n)	Evidence that has been removed from the official record.	Evidencia descartada
STRIKE (v)	(1) To delete or remove. (2) To dismiss an allegation before sentencing.	Descartar
STRIKE (n)	A prior conviction of serious felony that is charged as a prior allegation, e.g. a second strike, or third strike.	Convicción
SUBPOENA (n)		Citación
SUE (v)	To begin legal proceedings against another person or entity.	Demandar

SUIT (n)	Any proceeding by one person or persons against another person or entity in a court of law.	Demanda
SUMMONS (n)	1) A notice to a defendant that he or she has been sued or charged with a crime and is required to appear in court. (2) A <i>jury summons</i> requires the person receiving it to report for possible jury duty.	Citación
SUSPEND (v)	To postpone, stay, or withhold certain conditions of a judicial sentence for a temporary period of time.	Suspender
SUSTAIN (v)	To maintain, to affirm, to approve.	Sostener/mantener
SWEAR (v)	To declare in court that something is true.	Jurar
TANGIBLE (Adj)	When something can be perceived, especially through the sense of touch.	Palpable
TEMPORARY RELIEF (n)	Any form of action by a court granting one of the parties an order to protect its interest pending further action by the court.	Alivio temporal
TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER or TRO (n)	A temporary order of a court to keep conditions as they are (like not taking a child out of the county or not selling marital property) until there can be a hearing in which both parties are present	Orden de restricción temporal
TESTIFY (v)	To give evidence under oath as a witness in a court proceeding.	Testificar
TESTIMONY (n)	Oral evidence at a trial or during a deposition.	Testimonio
THIRD-PARTY (n)	A person, business, or government agency not actively involved in a legal proceeding, agreement, or transaction.	Tercera parte
TIME SERVED (n)	A sentence given by the court to a convicted	Tiempo servido

	criminal equal to the amount of time that the criminal was incarcerated during the trial.	
TORT (n)	When a person is hurt because someone did not do what he or she was supposed to do. The most common tort action is when people sue for damages as a result of an accident.	Agravio
TORTURE (v)	To inflict intense pain to body or mind for purposes of punishment, or to extract a confession or information, or for sadistic pleasure.	Torturar
TRAFFIC COURT (n)	A specialized court that hears crimes dealing with traffic offenses.	Jefatura de tráfico, tribunal de faltas (arg)
TRANSCRIPT (n)	A written record of everything that is said in a hearing or trial.	Trasunto
TRESPASSING (n)	Unlawful entry into another person's property.	Traspasar
TRIAL (n)	A court process in which the issues of fact and law are decided according to legal procedures so a judge or jury can make a decision.	Juicio
TRIAL COURT (n)	The first court to consider a case. Compare APPELLATE COURT.	Tribunal de primera instancia
TRIAL, COURT (BENCH) (n)	A trial where the jury is waived and the case is seen before the judge alone.	Jucio en banco de tribunal
TRIAL, SPEEDY (n)	The Sixth Amendment of the Constitution guarantees the accused a trial as soon as possible in accordance with prevailing rules, regulations and proceedings of law.	Juicio rápido
TRUE BILL (n)	The indictment made by a grand jury when it finds sufficient evidence for trial on the charge alleged	Acusación aprobada por el gran jurado

TRUE FINDING (n)	The juvenile court equivalent of a guilty verdict.	Fallo verdadero
UNDERCOVER (Adj)	Participating in a secret investigation in order to acquire information about the crime without the other party realizing his/her identity.	Encubierto, infiltrado
UNDER THE INFLUENCE (Prep phrase)	Any abnormal mental or physical condition that results from alcohol or drug use.	Bajo la influencia
UNEMPLOYMENT (n)	Condition of not being employed.	Desempleo
UNLAWFUL DETAINER (n)	Usually, the act of a tenant who is in possession of real property (such as an apartment) who refuses to leave after the expiration of the lease term. Legal way for a landlord to evict a tenant. It involves filing a complaint or petition with the local court and the tenant must be served with the court documents.	Juicio de desahucio
VACATE (v)	To annul/ cancel (a judgement or a contract; to set aside.	Revocar

VENUE (n)	The court where you can file your legal action.	Jurisdicción
VERDICT (n)	A jury's or a judge's final decision.	Veredicto
VICTIM (n)	A person who is the object of a crime or civil illegal behavior.	Víctima
VIOLATION (n)	The breaking of a right, duty, or law.	Infracción
VOIR DIRE (n)	The process of questioning potential jurors to choose which people will be part of the jury and decide a case.	Voir dire
VOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER (n)	A killing committed voluntarily during a heated moment, during a sudden quarrel, for	Homicidio voluntario

	instance if two persons fight, and one of them kills the other.	
WAIVE (RIGHTS) (v)	To give up a legal right voluntarily, intentionally, and with full knowledge of the consequences.	Renunciar (derechos)
WAIVER OF IMMUNITY (n)	Occurs when witnesses, before testifying or producing evidence, give up the right to refuse to testify against themselves, making it possible for their testimony to be used against them in future proceedings.	Renuncia de inmunidad
WARRANT (n)	A court order telling a law enforcement officer to do something.	Mandato judicial
WARRANT, ARREST (n)	A court order telling a law enforcement officer to arrest and bring before the court the person accused of an offense.	Orden de arresto
WARRANT, SEARCH (n)	A written order directing a law enforcement officer to conduct a search of a specified place and to seize any evidence directly related to the criminal offense.	Orden de registro
WEAPON (n)	An instrument used to threaten, injure or kill someone.	Arma
WEAPON, CONCEALED (n)	A weapon that is carried by a person, but that is not visible by ordinary observation.	Arma oculta
WEAPON, DEADLY (n)	Any item that can be used to produce death or serious bodily injury.	Arma mortal
WILL (n)	A legal paper that says what a person wants to happen to his or her personal property after the person dies. A will can be changed or cancelled at any time before a person dies. (See TESTAMENT.)	Testamento
WILLFUL (Adj)	A “willful” act is an act done intentionally, as opposed to an act done carelessly or	Premeditado

	accidentally.	
WITHOUT PREJUDICE (adv)	If your case is dismissed without prejudice it means that you can bring another suit based on the same legal issue.	Sin prejuicio
WITNESS (n)	1. A person called to testify about what he or she saw, heard, or knows.	Testigo
WITNESS (v)	1. To see an event (such as a crime or accident) take place. 2. To sign your name on a document to prove that it is authentic (for instance, on a will).	testificar
WORK PROJECT (n)	A program allowing the sentenced person the option to work instead of going to jail.	Proyecto de trabajo
WRIT (n)	A court order that says a certain action must be taken.	Mandato judicial
WRIT OF EXECUTION (n)	A court order that tells a sheriff or other official to enforce a judgment.	Mandamiento de ejecución