

Law School Dictionary

- ★ **1L, 2L, 3L:** A student's "level" in law school. Rather than freshman, junior, senior. 1L for first year students, 2L for second year students, 3L for third year students
- ★ **Appellant:** The party appealing the case
- ★ **Appellee:** The party responding to the appeal
- ★ **Black Letter Law:** Refers to the settled rules of law and legal principles that are old, fundamental, and settled
- ★ **Bluebook:** A book used in classes, journals, and legal practice, that sets out how to properly cite sources in legal writing
- ★ **Case Brief:** A chart or document that has the key points necessary to know the case. Typically this consists of the case name and citation, key facts, procedural history, rule, holding, and reasoning
- ★ **Cause of Action:** The legal name for a set of facts which give rise to a claim enforceable in court
- ★ **Cold Call:** When a professor calls on a student to answer a question that they did not volunteer to answer
- ★ **Common Law:** Law derived from judicial opinions
- ★ **Concurring Opinion:** The opinion in a court case of a judge(s) who agrees with the outcome of the majority opinion, but has a different reasoning than the majority opinion for why that should be the outcome
- ★ **Conclusory Statement:** A statement that is not backed up with any facts or rule
- ★ **Defendant:** The party who the case is brought against
- ★ **Dissenting Opinion:** The opinion in a court case of a judge(s) who disagree with the majority opinion
- ★ **Elements:** Parts of a cause of action that are required to be met for the defendant to be held liable/found guilty
- ★ **Factors:** Things a court may consider in making its decision, but are not required to hold a defendant liable/find a defendant guilty

- ★ **Hypothetical ('Hypo')**: An imaginary situation that presents a legal issue(s); the types of questions most law school exams are composed of
- ★ **IRAC**: An acronym, standing for 'Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion.' This is the structure, or some variation of it, that most law school professors require you write in on an exam
- ★ **Legal Precedent**: Decisions made in previous cases that are relevant to subsequent cases deciding similar issues
- ★ **Majority Opinion**: The opinion in a court case of the majority of the judges
- ★ **Outlining**: A synthesized, organized, and condensed version of all important notes from a class, made throughout the semester, into a single document to aid in finals preparation
- ★ **Petitioner**: The party who files a petition
- ★ **Plaintiff**: The party that is suing/bringing the case
- ★ **Respondent**: The party the petition is filed against
- ★ **Statutory Law**: Law derived from statutes