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| Ab initio | From the beginning. |
| Actiones legis | Actions at law. |
| Actori incumbit onus probandi | The burden of proof is on the plaintiff. |
| Ad idem | At the same point; consensus. |
| Ad litem | For the purpose of the suit. |
| Ad valorem | According to value. |
| Amicus curiae | Friend of the court. |
| Animus revertendi | Intention to return. |
| Assignatus utitur jure auctoris | The assignee uses the right of the assignor. |
| Assumpsit | He undertook; an action for breach of contract. |
| Autrefois acquit | Previously acquitted. |
| Autrefois convict | Previously convicted. |
| Bona vacantia | Ownerless goods. |
| Causa proxima non remota spectatur | The immediate and not the remote cause is to be considered. |
| Cestui que trust | The person for whose benefit a trust is created. |
| Cestui que vie | The person for whose life an estate is held. |
| Compos mentis | Of sound mind. |
| Contra proferentem | Against the one bringing forth; ambiguity resolved against drafter. |
| Coram nobis | Before us (the court). |
| Corpus juris | Body of law. |
| De bonis asportatis | For carrying away goods. |
| De facto corporation | A corporation in fact, but not lawfully organized. |
| De novo | Starting anew; fresh trial. |
| Dictum | Statement by the way; an observation, not binding. |
| Doli capax | Capable of crime. |
| Ejusdem generis rule | The rule of the same kind; general words follow specific ones. |
| Estoppel | Prevented from denying. |
| Ex aequo et bono | According to what is just and fair. |
| Ex parte | On one side only; without the other party. |
| Expressio facit cessare tacitum | What is expressed makes what is silent cease. |
| Fait accompli | An accomplished fact. |
| Fiat justitia ruat caelum | Let justice be done though the heavens fall. |
| Generalia specialibus non derogant | General things do not derogate from special things. |
| Ignorantia legis neminem excusat | Ignorance of the law excuses no one. |
| In absentia | In absence. |
| In banc | In the bench; court sitting as a full court. |

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| In camera | In private (not in open court). |
| In curia | In open court. |
| In dubio pro reo | When in doubt, for the accused. |
| In esse | In existence. |
| In extremis | At the point of death. |
| In futuro | In the future. |
| In loco parentum | In the place of parents. |
| In omnibus | In all things. |
| In personam | Against the person (distinct from in rem). |
| In promptu | At hand; in readiness. |
| In situ | In its original place. |
| In terrorem | As a warning or threat. |
| In toto | Completely, wholly. |
| Intra legem | Within the law. |
| Ipso facto | By the fact itself. |
| Jus ad rem | A right to a thing (less than ownership). |
| Jus cogens | Compelling law; fundamental principle. |
| Jus naturale | Natural law. |
| Jus sanguinis | Right of blood (citizenship by parentage). |
| Jus soli | Right of soil (citizenship by birthplace). |
| Jus tertii | The right of a third party. |
| Lex causae | The law of the cause; law governing an issue. |
| Lex fori | The law of the forum; law of the court. |
| Lex loci celebrationis | Law of the place of celebration (marriage, etc.). |
| Lex non scripta | Unwritten law; customary law. |
| Mala in se | Wrong in itself; inherently immoral act. |
| Mala prohibita | Wrong because prohibited by law. |
| Mens legis | Intention of the law. |
| Misnomer | Wrong name. |
| Nemo est haeres viventis | No one is the heir of a living person. |
| Nemo tenetur seipsum accusare | No one is bound to accuse himself. |
| Nisi prius | Unless before; court of original jurisdiction. |
| Non obstante veredicto | Notwithstanding the verdict. |
| Nullum tempus occurrit regi | Time does not run against the king (Crown/state). |
| Onus probandi | Burden of proof. |
| Pacta sunt servanda | Agreements must be kept. |
| Pari passu | On equal footing. |
| Pendente lite | During litigation. |
| Per se | By itself. |
| Post mortem | After death. |

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| Prima facie case | Case at first sight; sufficient unless disproved. |
| Pro rata | Proportionally. |
| Quantum meruit | As much as deserved. |
| Quasi contract | Like a contract; obligation imposed by law. |
| Quasi judicial | Like judicial, but not strictly so. |
| Qui tam | He who sues for the king as well as for himself. |
| Quorum | The minimum number required for validity. |
| Ratio legis | Reason for the law. |
| Res gestae | Things done; facts of the case. |
| Res integra | An entire new matter. |
| Salvage | Compensation for saving property at sea. |
| Sine proprio | Without property. |
| Sui juris | Of his own right; legally competent. |
| Suppositio falsi | Lying under a false supposition. |
| Testator | Person making a will. |
| Ultra petita | Beyond what is asked. |
| Ut supra | As above. |
| Verbatim | Word for word. |
| Vinculum juris | A bond of law. |
| Voluntas necandi | Intention to kill. |
| Voluntas testatoris est ambulatoria usque ad mortem | The will of the testator is ambulatory until death. |