

Legal Maxim	Meaning
Actus non facit reum nisi mens sit rea	An act does not make a person guilty unless there is a guilty mind.
Audi alteram partem	Hear the other side (principle of natural justice).
Nemo iudex in causa sua	No one should be a judge in his own cause.
Ignorantia juris non excusat	Ignorance of law is not an excuse.
Res ipsa loquitur	The thing speaks for itself.
Ubi jus ibi remedium	Where there is a right, there is a remedy.
Actio personalis moritur cum persona	A personal right of action dies with the person.
Qui facit per alium facit per se	He who acts through another does the act himself.
Volenti non fit injuria	To a willing person, no injury is done.
De minimis non curat lex	The law does not concern itself with trifles.
Salus populi suprema lex	The welfare of the people is the supreme law.
Caveat emptor	Let the buyer beware.
Caveat venditor	Let the seller beware.
Consensus ad idem	Meeting of minds.
Ex turpi causa non oritur actio	No action arises from an immoral cause.
Falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus	False in one thing, false in everything.
Lex non cogit ad impossibilia	The law does not compel the impossible.
Nemo dat quod non habet	No one gives what he does not have.
Nemo debet esse iudex in propria causa	No one should be judge in his own cause.
Nullum crimen sine lege	No crime without law.
Nulla poena sine lege	No punishment without law.
Lex talionis	Law of retaliation; an eye for an eye.
Damnum sine injuria	Damage without legal injury.
Injuria sine damno	Legal injury without damage.
Novus actus interveniens	A new intervening act.
Stare decisis	To stand by things decided; precedent.
Ratio decidendi	The reason for the decision.
Obiter dicta	Things said by the way.
Locus standi	Right to appear and be heard in court.
Inter alia	Among other things.
In pari delicto	In equal fault.
Acta exteriora indicant interiora secreta	External actions show internal secrets (intent is inferred from actions).
Expressio unius est exclusio alterius	The express mention of one thing excludes others.
Ejusdem generis	Of the same kind or nature.
In bonam partem	In good faith.
Lex fori	Law of the forum (court).
Lex loci contractus	Law of the place where a contract is made.
Lex loci delicti	Law of the place where the tort was committed.
Lex posterior derogat priori	A later law repeals an earlier law.
Lex specialis derogat legi generali	Special law overrides general law.

Ignorantia facti excusat	Ignorance of fact is an excuse.
Mala fide	In bad faith.
Bona fide	In good faith.
Mutatis mutandis	With the necessary changes.
Noscitur a sociis	Meaning of a word from accompanying words.
Per incuriam	Through lack of care; a judgment given without due regard to law or facts.
Quid pro quo	Something for something.
Status quo	The existing state of affairs.
Sub judice	Under judicial consideration.
Ultra vires	Beyond one's legal power or authority.
Intra vires	Within one's legal power or authority.
Mens rea	Guilty mind.
Corpus delicti	Body of the crime; essential facts proving crime was committed.
Sine qua non	An essential condition.
Re ipsa loquitur	The thing speaks for itself.
Non obstante	Notwithstanding.
Prima facie	At first sight; based on first impression.
Inter vivos	Between the living.
In rem	Against the thing.
In personam	Against the person.
Amicus curiae	Friend of the court.
De facto	In fact.
De jure	By law.
Habeas corpus	You may have the body; a writ to produce a person in court.
Mandamus	We command; writ to command a public authority.
Certiorari	To be informed; writ to quash the order of a lower court.
Prohibition	Writ to prohibit lower courts from exceeding their jurisdiction.
Quo warranto	By what authority; writ challenging authority.
Obligatio ex delicto	Obligation arising from a wrong.
Restitutio in integrum	Restoration to original condition.
Ex parte	From one side only.
In loco parentis	In place of a parent.
Animus possidendi	Intention to possess.
Culpa lata	Gross negligence.
Doli incapax	Incapable of crime.
Ex gratia	As a favor; not legally necessary.
Lex domicilii	Law of the place of domicile.
Non est factum	Not his deed.
Parens patriae	Parent of the nation (state protects those who cannot protect themselves).
Ratio legis	Reason of the law.
Sine die	Without fixing a day for future action.
Sui generis	Of its own kind.

Ut res magis valeat quam pereat	It is better for a thing to have effect than to be made void.
Vicarious liability	Liability for the acts of another.
Vis major	Act of God; irresistible force.
Lex loci solutionis	Law of the place of performance of a contract.
Non compos mentis	Not of sound mind.
Res judicata	A matter already judged.
Res sub judice	Matter under consideration by court.
Obiter dictum	By the way (comments by judge not essential to the decision).
Consensus ad idem	Agreement to the same thing.
Functus officio	Having performed his or her office.
Lex loci rei sitae	Law of the place where the property is situated.
Necessitas non habet legem	Necessity knows no law.
Ratio legis est anima legis	The reason of the law is the soul of the law.
Ex debito justitiae	As a matter of right.
Rex non potest peccare	The king can do no wrong.
Alibi	Elsewhere; defence of being elsewhere at the time of crime.
Condonation	Forgiveness, especially by the victim.
Contra bonos mores	Against good morals.