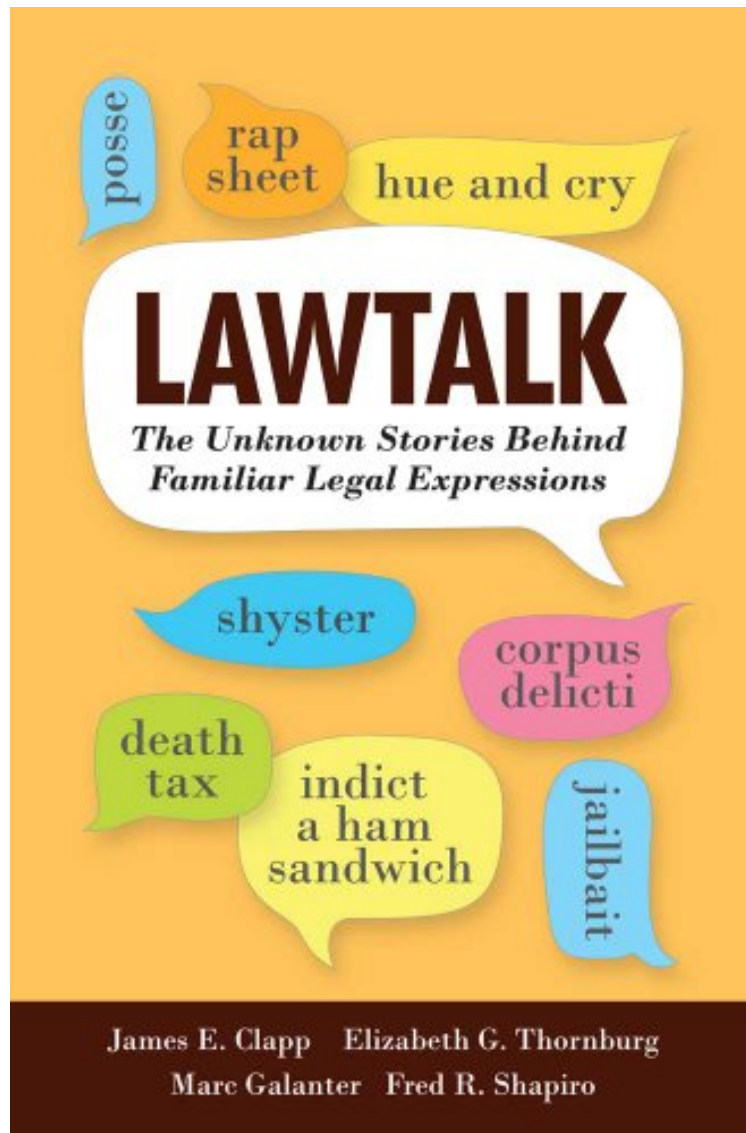


Lawtalk: The Unknown Stories Behind Familiar Legal Expressions

James E. Clapp, Elizabeth G. Thornburg, Marc Galanter, Fred R. Shapiro

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James E. Clapp, Elizabeth G. Thornburg, Marc Galanter, Fred R. Shapiro : Lawtalk: The Unknown Stories Behind Familiar Legal Expressions before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Lawtalk: The Unknown Stories Behind Familiar Legal Expressions:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. FunBy CustomerEver wonder where the odd expressions in the law came from, this book tells you...at great length. As a law student, soon to be lawyer, I wanted to know, and truly enjoyed the experience.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy C. S. Garciafun interesting2 of

4 people found the following review helpful. RandomBy Thomas G. Field, Jr.I found a disconnect between the cartoonish cover and the serious content. The cover suggests a wholly different book, one with far more levity.I have no basis for faulting individual entries, but many had an unexpected, although not disagreeable, political overtone. Overall, a title, as well as cover, more indicative of content would have been helpful. Most notable however, was failure to present any overarching basis for selecting terms. Moreover, grouping items would have lent coherence to an apparently random enterprise.

Law-related words and phrases abound in our everyday language, often without our being aware of their origins or their particular legal significance: boilerplate, jailbait, pound of flesh, rainmaker, the third degree. This insightful and entertaining book reveals the unknown stories behind familiar legal expressions that come from sources as diverse as Shakespeare, vaudeville, and Dr. Seuss. Separate entries for each expression follow no prescribed formula but instead focus on the most interesting, enlightening, and surprising aspects of the words and their evolution. Popular myths and misunderstandings are explored and exploded, and the entries are augmented with historical images and humorous sidebars.Lively and unexpected, Lawtalk will draw a diverse array of readers with its abundance of linguistic, legal, historical, and cultural information. Those readers should be forewarned: upon finishing one entry, there is an irresistible temptation to turn to another, and yet another . . .

"Lawtalk combines enormous erudition with loads of levity-the result being a compulsively browsable book that will leave readers wordly-wise."Bryan A. Garner, President, LawProse, Inc., Editor in Chief, Black's Law Dictionary