



American Legal English: Using Language in Legal Contexts (Michigan Series in English for Academic & Professional Purposes)

By Debra Suzette Lee, Charles Hall, Marsha Hurley

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American Legal English: Using Language in Legal Contexts provides a basic introduction to the U.S. legal system for non-native speakers of English. It combines elements of law with language to enhance non-native English speakers's ability to communicate with their legal counterparts in English. Reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities are included in each chapter. While a good basic knowledge of general English is presumed, there is no assumption that the students have any knowledge of the U.S. legal system or legal terminology. Collaborative, communicative activities are used throughout the text to engage student interest and involve them in the learning process. Realia, in the form of cases and statutes, is included so that students become comfortable with legal English and its sometimes difficult syntax. The text can be used for both law students and legal practitioners, in either intensive programs or those of longer duration. Non-attorney English for Specific Purposes instructors who have some interest in the legal field will be able to use the book and rely on the expertise of their students to create an effective learning environment in a Law and Language course.

The organization of the book is by legal content, beginning with a broad overview of the system and how it works, then moving to specific areas of law such as torts or contracts. The book culminates in a mock trial, which provides students an opportunity to employ all of the skills and knowledge they have acquired during study of the preceding chapters.

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