

V

v. abbr. **1.** VERSUS. — Also abbreviated *vs.* **2.** Volume. — Also abbreviated *vol.* **3.** Verb. — Also abbreviated *vb.* **4.** (*cap.*) Victoria — the Queen of England from 1837 to 1901. **5.** *Vide.* • This Latin term, meaning “see,” is used in some phrases such as *quod vide* “which see,” abbreviated *q.v.* **6.** *Voce* (**voh**-see). • This Latin term means “voice.”

VA. abbr. VETERANS AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF.

vacancy, n. **1.** The state or fact of a lack of occupancy in an office, post, or piece of property. **2.** The time during which an office, post, or piece of property is not occupied. **3.** An unoccupied office, post, or piece of property; an empty place. • Although the term sometimes refers to an office or post that is temporarily filled, the more usual reference is to an office or post that is unfilled even on a temporary basis. An officer's misconduct does not create a vacancy even if a suspension occurs; a vacancy, properly speaking, does not occur until the officer is officially removed.

vacancy clause. Insurance. A special indorsement allowing premises to be unoccupied beyond the period stipulated in the original insurance policy, so that the insurance remains in effect during an extension period, often for a reduced amount.

vacant, adj. **1.** Empty; unoccupied <a vacant office>. • Courts have sometimes distinguished *vacant* from *unoccupied*, holding that *vacant* means completely empty while *unoccupied* means not routinely characterized by the presence of human beings. **2.** Absolutely free, unclaimed, and unoccupied <vacant land>. **3.** (Of an estate) abandoned; having no heir or claimant. — The term implies either abandonment or nonoccupancy for any purpose.

vacantia (və-kan-sh[ee]-ə). See *bona vacantia* under BONA.

vacantia bona (və-kan-sh[ee]-ə boh-nə). See *bona vacantia* under BONA.

vacant succession. See SUCCESSION (2).

vacate, vb. **1.** To nullify or cancel; make void; invalidate <the court vacated the judgment>. Cf. OVERRULE. **2.** To surrender occupancy or possession; to move out or leave <the tenant vacated the premises>.

vacatio (və-kay-shee-oh). *Civil law.* Exemption; immunity; privilege; dispensation.

vacation, n. **1.** The act of vacating <vacation of the office> <vacation of the court's order>. **2.** The period between one term of court and the beginning of the next; the space of time during which a court holds no sessions. • The traditional vacations in England were Christmas vacation, beginning December 24 and ending January 6; Easter vacation, beginning Good Friday and ending Easter Tuesday; Whitsun vacation, beginning on the Saturday before and ending the Tuesday after Whitsunday (i.e., Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter); and the long vacation, beginning August 13 and ending October 23. **3.** Loosely, any time when a given court is not in session. **4.** *Eccles. law.* The act or process by which a church or benefice becomes vacant, as on the death or resignation of the incumbent, until a successor is appointed. — Also termed (in sense 4) *vacatura*.

vacation barrister. See BARRISTER.

vacatur (və-kay-tər), *n.* [Law Latin “it is vacated”] **1.** The act of annulling or setting aside. **2.** A rule or order by which a proceeding is vacated.

vacatura (vay-kə-t[y]oor-ə), *n.* VACATION (4).

vacua possessio (vak-yoo-ə pə-zes[h]-ee-oh). [Latin “a vacant possession”] *Roman & civil law.* Free and unburdened possession, which a seller must give to a purchaser.

vacuus (vak-yoo-əs), *adj.* [Latin] *Hist.* Empty; void; vacant; unoccupied.

vades (vay-deez), *n.* [Latin pl. of *vas* “a surety”] Pledges, sureties, bail; esp., security for a criminal defendant's appearance in court.

vadiare duellum (vad-ee-air-ee d[y]oo-el-əm), *vb.* [Law Latin “to wage the duellum”] *Hist.* To give pledges mutually for engaging in trial by combat.

vadiare legem (vad-ee-air-ee lee-jəm), *vb.* [Law Latin “to wage law”] *Hist.* To give security to make one’s law on a day assigned.

vadiatio (vad-ee-ay-shee-oh), *n.* [Law Latin] *Hist.* Wager. Cf. INVADIATIO.

vadiatio duelli (vad-ee-ay-shee-oh d[y]oo-el-i). [Law Latin “wager of battle”] See TRIAL BY COMBAT.

vadiatio legis (vad-ee-ay-shee-oh lee-jis). [Law Latin “wager of law”] See WAGER OF LAW.

vadimony (vad-ə-moh-nee). *Roman law.* **1.** A guarantee (originally backed by sureties) that a litigant would appear in court. **2.** A solemn promise to this effect. — Also termed *vadimonium*.

vadium (vay-dee-əm). [Law Latin “pledge, bail, security”] *Hist.* **1.** Security by a pledge of property.

vadium mortuum (vay-dee-əm mor-choo-əm). [Law Latin “dead pledge”] A mortgage. ● This was considered a “dead pledge” because an estate was given as security by the borrower, who granted to the lender the estate in fee, on the condition that if the money were not repaid at the specified time, the pledged estate would continue as the lender’s — it would be gone from, or “dead” to, the borrower (mortgagor). — Also termed *mortuum vadium*. See MORTGAGE.

vadium vivum (vay-dee-əm vi-vəm). [Law Latin “live pledge”] A living pledge, which exists when an estate is granted until a debt is paid out of its proceeds. ● The pledge was so called because neither the money nor the lands were lost; it was a “living pledge” because the profits of the land were constantly paying off the debt. — Also termed *vivum vadium*; *vif-gage*.

2. Wages; salary.

vadium ponere (vay-dee-əm poh-nə-ree), *vb.* *Hist.* To take bail for the appearance of a person in court.

vagabond (vag-ə-bond), *n.* *Archaic.* A homeless wanderer without means of honest livelihood; VAGRANT. ● This term became archaic over the course of the 20th century, as vagrants won the

right not to be forcibly removed from cities. In the 1980s and 1990s, vagabonds came to be known as *street people* and *homeless people*, or *the homeless*. — Also termed *vagabundus* (vag-ə-bən-dəs).

“[A]ll idle persons or vagabonds [are] . . . divided into three classes, *idle* and *disorderly* persons, *rogues* and *vagabonds*, and *incorrigible rogues*; — all these are offenders against the good order, and blemishes in the government, of any kingdom. They are therefore all punished . . . rogues and vagabonds with whipping and imprisonment not exceeding six months . . .” 4 William Blackstone, *Commentaries on the Laws of England* 170 (1769).

vagabondage (vag-ə-bon-dij). **1.** The condition of a vagabond. **2.** Vagabonds as a class. — Also termed (in sense 1) *vagabondism*; (in senses 1 & 2) *vagabondry*.

vagabundus (vag-ə-bən-dəs). [Law Latin] See VAGABOND.

vagrancy (vay-grən-see), *n.* **1.** The state or condition of wandering from place to place without a home, job, or means of support. ● Vagrancy is generally considered a course of conduct or a manner of living rather than a single act. But under some statutes, a single act has been held sufficient to constitute vagrancy; one court held, for example, that the act of prowling about and creeping up on parked cars and their occupants at night, under circumstances suggesting an intent to commit a crime, constitutes vagrancy. See *Smith v. Drew*, 26 P.2d 1040 (Wash. 1933). Many state laws prohibiting vagrancy have been declared unconstitutionally vague. — Also termed *vagrantism*. **2.** An instance of such wandering. Cf. LOITERING.

“Vagrancy is a status resulting from misconduct and in the form of a socially harmful condition or mode of life which has been defined and made punishable by law. Until recently it was a misdemeanor, or group of misdemeanors, in most states.” Rollin M. Perkins & Ronald N. Boyce, *Criminal Law* 494 (3d ed. 1982).

vagrant, *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or characteristic of a vagrant; inclined to vagrancy. **2.** Nomadically homeless.

vagrant, *n.* **1.** At common law, anyone belonging to the several classes of idle or disorderly persons, rogues, and vagabonds. **2.** One who, not having a settled habitation, strolls from place to place; a homeless, idle wanderer. ● The term often refers to one who spends time in idleness or immorality, having no property and without any visible means of support. Under some statutes, a vagrant is an offender against or menace to the public peace, usu. liable to

become a public burden. — Also termed *vagabond*. See VAGABOND.

vagrantism. See VAGRANCY.

vague, *adj.* **1.** Imprecise; not sharply outlined; indistinct. **2.** (Of words) broadly indefinite; not clearly or concretely expressed; uncertain. **3.** Characterized by haziness of thought.

vagueness. **1.** Uncertain breadth of meaning <the phrase “within a reasonable time” is plagued by vagueness — what is reasonable?>. • Though common in writings generally, vagueness raises due-process concerns if legislation does not provide fair notice of what is required or prohibited, so that enforcement might well become arbitrary. **2.** Loosely, ambiguity. See AMBIGUITY.

vagueness doctrine. *Constitutional law.* The doctrine — based on the Due Process Clause — requiring that a criminal statute state explicitly and definitely what acts are prohibited, so as to provide fair warning and preclude arbitrary enforcement. — Also termed *void-for-vagueness doctrine*. Cf. OVERBREADTH DOCTRINE.

valentia (və-len-shee-ə), *n.* [Law Latin from Latin *valere* “to be of value”] *Hist.* Value; worth. • In old indictments for larceny, this term often appeared to express the value of the things taken.

valid, *adj.* **1.** Legally sufficient; binding <a valid contract>. **2.** Meritorious <that is a valid conclusion based on the facts presented in this case>. — **validate**, *vb.* — **validation**, **validity**, *n.*

valid agreement. See *valid contract* under CONTRACT.

validating statute. See STATUTE.

valid contract. See CONTRACT.

valise diplomatique (və-lees di-ploh-ma-teeek). See DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

valor (val-ər), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* Value; worth; rate; a valuation. — Also spelled *valour*. See AD VALOREM.

valor beneficiorum (val-ər ben-ə-fish-ee-or-əm). [Law Latin] *Hist.* The value of all ecclesiastical benefices and spiritual preferments.

valor maritagii (val-ər mar-ə-tay-jee-ī). [Latin] *Hist.* The value of a marriage. • Under ancient tenures, this was the amount that a female ward forfeited to a guardian when the guardian had offered her a marriage without disparagement (inequality), and she refused. In feudal law, the guardian in chivalry had the right of tendering to a minor ward a suitable match, without disparagement. If the ward refused, she forfeited the value of the marriage (*valor maritagii*) to the guardian. — Also termed (in the accusative) *valorem maritagii*; (Scots law) *avail of marriage*.

“If an infant ward of a guardian in chivalry refused a match tendered by the guardian, he or she forfeited the value of the marriage (*valorem maritagii*) to the guardian; that is, so much as a jury would assess, or any one would *bona fide* give to the guardian for such an alliance.” 2 Alexander M. Burrill, *A Law Dictionary and Glossary* 572–73 (2d ed. 1867).

valuable, *adj.* Worth a good price; having financial or market value.

valuable consideration. See CONSIDERATION.

valuable improvement. See IMPROVEMENT.

valuable papers. Documents that, upon a person’s death, are important in carrying out the decedent’s wishes and in managing the estate’s affairs. • Examples include a will, title documents, stock certificates, powers of attorney, letters to be opened on one’s death, and the like. Some statutes require that, to be effective, a holographic will devising realty be found among the decedent’s valuable papers.

valuation, *n.* **1.** The process of determining the value of a thing or entity. **2.** The estimated worth of a thing or entity. — **value**, **valueate**, *vb.*

assessed valuation. The value that a taxing authority gives to property and to which the tax rate is applied.

special-use valuation. An executor’s option of valuating real property in an estate, esp. farmland, at its current use rather than for its highest potential value.

valuation date. See ALTERNATE VALUATION DATE.

valuation list. *Hist.* An inventory of all the ratable hereditaments in a parish, each item in the inventory recording the name of the occupier, the owner, the property, the extent of the property, the gross estimated rental, and the

ratable value. • The list was traditionally prepared by the overseers of each parish.

value, n. 1. The monetary worth or price of something; the amount of goods, services, or money that something will command in an exchange.

actual cash value. Insurance. 1. Replacement cost minus normal depreciation. **2.** See *fair market value*.

actual market value. See *fair market value*.

actual value. See *fair market value*.

agreed value. A property's value that is fixed by agreement of the parties with the property. • An example is a list of property values contained in an insurance policy.

annual value. 1. The net yearly income derivable from a given piece of property. **2.** One year's rental value of property, less costs and expenses.

book value. See BOOK VALUE.

cash surrender value. Insurance. The amount of money payable when an insurance policy having cash value, such as a whole-life policy, is redeemed before maturity or death. — Abbr. CSV. — Also termed *surrender value*.

cash value. See *full cash value*.

clear annual value. The net annual value of property, after payment of taxes, interest on mortgages, and other charges.

clear market value. See *fair market value*.

clear value. Tax. For purposes of an inheritance tax, whatever remains of an estate after all claims against it have been paid.

fair market value. The price that a seller is willing to accept and a buyer is willing to pay on the open market and in an arm's-length transaction; the point at which supply and demand intersect. — Abbr. FMV. — Also termed *actual value*; *actual cash value*; *actual market value*; *cash value*; *clear market value*; *fair and reasonable value*; *fair cash market value*; *fair cash value*; *fair market price*; *fair value*; *full value*; *just value*; *market value*; *salable value*; *true value*.

"[A] forced sale price is not fair value though it may be used as evidence on the question of fair value. Likewise, the fair value of saleable assets is not what they would sell for in the slow process of the debtor's trade as if the debtor were continuing business unhampered. The general idea of fair value is the amount of money the debtor could raise from its property in a short period of time, but not so short as to approximate a forced sale, if the debtor operated as a reasonably prudent and diligent businessman with his interests in mind, especially a

proper concern for the payment of his debts." David G. Epstein et al., *Bankruptcy* § 6-18, at 307 (1993).

fair value. See *fair market value*.

full cash value. Market value for property tax purposes; estimated value derived by standard appraisal methods. — Also termed *cash value*.

full value. See *fair market value*.

future value. The value, at some future time, of a present sum or a series of payments of money, calculated at a specific interest rate.

going-concern value. The value of a commercial enterprise's assets or the enterprise itself as an active business with future earning power, as opposed to the liquidation value of the business or its assets. • Going-concern value includes, for example, goodwill. — Also termed *going value*. Cf. GOODWILL.

highest proved value. In a trover action, the greatest value (as proven by the plaintiff) that the converted property reached from the time of the conversion until trial. • This is the most that a plaintiff is entitled to recover.

intrinsic value. The inherent value of a thing, without any special features that might alter its market value. • The intrinsic value of a silver coin, for example, is simply the value of the silver within it.

just value. See *fair market value*.

liquidation value. 1. The value of a business or of an asset when it is sold in liquidation, as opposed to being sold in the ordinary course of business. **2.** See *liquidation price* under PRICE.

market value. See *fair market value*.

most-suitable-use value. See *optimal-use value*.

net value. 1. Insurance. The excess of policyholder payments over the yearly cost of insurance; the part of an insured's annual premium that, according to actuarial tables, the insurer must set apart to meet the insurer's obligations to the insured. — Also termed *reserve*. **2.** The fair market value of shares of stock.

new value. 1. A value (such as money) that is newly given. **2.** The value obtained by taking a security, such as collateral, for any debt other than a preexisting debt.

optimal-use value. Tax. The highest and best use of a thing from an economic standpoint. • If a farm is worth more as a potential shopping center, the shopping-center value will control even if the transferee (that is, a

donee or heir) continues to use the property as a farm. — Also termed *most-suitable-use value*.

par value. See PAR VALUE.

present value. See PRESENT VALUE.

residual value. See *salvage value*.

salable value. See *fair market value*.

salvage value. The value of an asset after it has become useless to the owner; the amount expected to be obtained when a fixed asset is disposed of at the end of its useful life. ● Salvage value is used, under some depreciation methods, to determine the allowable tax deduction for depreciation. And under the UCC, when a buyer of goods breaches or repudiates the contract of sale, the seller may, under certain circumstances, either complete the manufacture of any incomplete goods or cease the manufacture and sell the partial product for scrap of salvage value. UCC § 2-704(2). — Also termed *residual value*; *scrap value*. See DEPRECIATION.

scrap value. See *salvage value*.

settlement value. The present value of a claim if settled immediately as opposed to pursuing it further through litigation.

surrender value. See *cash surrender value*.

true value. See *fair market value*.

use value. A value established by the utility of an object instead of its value upon selling or exchanging it.

value received. See VALUE RECEIVED.

2. The significance, desirability, or utility of something. **3.** Sufficient contractual consideration. — **value, vb.** — **valuation, n.**

“Value also includes paying or securing a preexisting debt, and in this regard value is broader than common-law consideration. Thus, a debtor receives value in satisfying an antecedent claim (as by paying an overdue account or an outstanding loan or by transferring property to vindicate a preexisting interest in it) or in providing collateral for a previously unsecured creditor. It makes no difference that the debtor got nothing new, in terms of property added to her estate, at the time of the transfer.” David G. Epstein et al., *Bankruptcy* § 6-49, at 374 (1993).

value-added tax. See TAX.

value date. The date when the proceeds of a bill of exchange (e.g., a check) or of a foreign-exchange transaction (e.g., a sale of dollars for euros) become available for use. — Also termed *here and there*.

valued policy. See INSURANCE POLICY.

valued-policy law. A statute requiring insurance companies to pay the full amount of the insurance to the insured in the event of a total loss, regardless of the true value of the property at the time of loss.

valuer. See APPRAISER.

value received. Consideration that has been delivered. ● This phrase is commonly used in a bill of exchange or promissory note to show that it was supported by consideration.

valuta (və-loo-tə), *n.* [Italian fr. Latin] Value; worth; esp., the value of a currency in relation to that of the currency of some other country.

valvasor (valv-ə-sor), *n.* [Law Latin] *Hist.* A principal vassal who, though not holding directly of the sovereign, held of those who did so; a vassal of the second degree or rank. — Also spelled *valvassor*. See VAVASOR.

VA mortgage. See MORTGAGE.

vandal. [fr. Latin *Vandalus*, a member of the Germanic tribe known as Vandals] A malicious destroyer or defacer of works of art, monuments, buildings, or other property.

vandalism, n. **1.** Willful or ignorant destruction of public or private property, esp. of artistic, architectural, or literary treasures. **2.** The actions or attitudes of one who maliciously or ignorantly destroys or disfigures public or private property; active hostility to anything that is venerable or beautiful. — **vandalize, vb.** — **vandalistic, adj.**

vara (vah-rah). A Spanish–American measure of length equal to about 33 inches. ● Local usage varies, so that it may sometimes be more and sometimes less than 33 inches. In Mexican land grants, the measure is equal to 32.9927 inches.

variable annuity. See ANNUITY.

variable annuity contract. See CONTRACT.

variable cost. See COST (1).

variable life insurance. See INSURANCE.

variable rate. See INTEREST RATE.

variable-rate mortgage. See *adjustable-rate mortgage* under MORTGAGE.

variance. **1.** A difference or disparity between two statements or documents that ought to agree; esp., in criminal procedure, a difference between the allegations in a charging instrument and the proof actually introduced at trial. — Also termed *variation*.

fatal variance. A variance that either deprives the defendant of fair notice of the charges or exposes the defendant to the risk of double jeopardy. • Such a variance is grounds for reversing a conviction.

immaterial variance. A variance that is too slight to mislead or prejudice the defendant, and is thus harmless error.

2. A license or official authorization to depart from a zoning law. — Also termed (in sense 2) *zoning variance*. Cf. SPECIAL EXCEPTION (2); SPECIAL-USE PERMIT.

area variance. A variance that permits deviation from zoning requirements about construction and placement, but not from requirements about use.

use variance. A variance that permits deviation from zoning requirements about use.

varrantizatio (və-ran-ti-zay-shee-oh), *n.* [Law Latin] *Hist. Scots law.* A warranty.

vas (vas), *n.* *Civil law.* A pledge or surety; esp., a surety in a judicial proceeding, whether civil or criminal. Pl. **vades**.

vassal (vas-əl), *n.* [fr. Law Latin *vassallus*] *Hist.* The grantee of a fief, feud, or fee; a feudal tenant. Cf. FREEMAN.

arriere vassal (a-ree-air vas-əl). *Hist.* The vassal of a vassal.

vassalage (vas-əl-ij), *n.* *Hist.* **1.** The state of being a vassal or feudatory. — Also termed *vasseleria*. **2.** The service required of a vassal. — Also termed *vassaticum*; *main-rent*. **3.** The territory held by a vassal; a fief or fee. **4.** Vassals collectively. **5.** The dominion or authority of a feudal superior over vassals. **6.** Political servility; subjection.

vassallus (vas-ə-ləs), *n.* [Law Latin] *Hist.* A feudal tenant. Cf. VASSUS.

vassal state. *Int'l law.* A state that is supposed to possess only those rights and privileges that have been granted to it by a more powerful state.

vassaticum (və-sat-ə-kəm). [Law Latin] See VASSALAGE (2).

vasseleria (vas-ə-leer-ee-ə). [Law Latin] See VASSALAGE (1).

vassus (vas-əs), *n.* [Law Latin] *Hist.* A feudal tenant that held immediately of the king. Cf. VASSALLUS.

vasto. See DE VASTO.

vastum (vas-təm), *n.* *Hist.* WASTE.

vastum forestae vel bosci (vas-təm for-es-tee vel bahs-1). *Hist.* Waste of a forest or wood.

VAT. See *value-added tax* under TAX.

vauderie (vaw-dər-ee). *Hist.* Sorcery; witchcraft.

vavator (vav-ə-sor), *n.* [Law Latin] *Hist.* The vassal or tenant of a baron; one who held under a baron and also had subtenants. — Also spelled *vavasour* (vav-ə-suur). Cf. VALVASOR.

vavatory (vav-ə-sor-ee), *n.* [fr. Law Latin *vavatoria*] *Hist.* The lands held by a vavator.

VC. *abbr.* VICE-CHANCELLOR.

VCC. *abbr.* VICE-CHANCELLOR'S COURT.

v.e. *abbr.* VENDITIONI EXPONAS.

veal-money. *Hist.* The annual rent paid by tenants of the manor of Bradford, in the county of Wiltshire, in lieu of veal formerly paid in kind.

vectigal (vek-tī-gəl), *n.* *Roman & civil law.* **1.** A tax, esp. an import or export duty, paid to the state. **2.** An annual ground rent paid in kind or in money. Pl. **vectigalia** (vek-tə-gay-lee-ə).

vectigal judicarium (vek-tī-gəl joo-dish-ee-air-ee-əm), *n.* A tax or fine to defray the expenses of maintaining courts of justice.

vectura (vek-t[y]oor-ə). *Hist. Maritime law.* Freight.

vehicle (vee-ə-kəl), *n.* Something used as an instrument of conveyance; any conveyance used in transporting passengers or merchandise by land, water, or air.

vehicular (vee-hik-yə-lər), *adj.* Of or relating to a vehicle or vehicles.

vehicular homicide. See HOMICIDE.

vein, *n.* *Mining law.* A continuous body of mineral or mineralized rock, filling a seam or fissure in the earth's crust, within defined boundaries that clearly separate it from surrounding rock.

discovery vein. The primary vein for the purpose of locating a mining claim.

vejour (və-zhoor), *n.* [Law French fr. Law Latin *visoires* "viewers"] *Hist.* **1.** One of several persons sent by the court to examine a place in question to help in the decision-making process. **2.** A person sent to view those who excuse themselves from court on grounds of illness, to see whether they are actually so sick that they cannot appear or whether they are malingering. — Also spelled *veyor*; *veyour*; *vayour*; *veior*; *veighor*.

vel non (vel non). [Latin "or not"] Or the absence of it (or them) <this case turns solely on the finding of discrimination vel non>.

venal (vee-nəl), *adj.* **1.** (Of a person) capable of being bribed. **2.** Ready to sell one's services or influence for money or other valuable consideration, usu. for base motives. **3.** Of, relating to, or characterized by corrupt bargaining. **4.** Broadly, purchasable; for sale.

vend, *vb.* **1.** To transfer to another for money or other thing of value. • The term is not commonly applied to real estate, although its derivatives (*vendor* and *vendee*) are. **2.** To make an object of trade, especially by hawking or peddling. **3.** To utter publicly; to say or state; to publish broadly.

vendee. A purchaser, usu. of real property; a buyer.

vendetta (ven-det-ə), *n.* A private blood feud in which family members seek revenge on a person outside the family (often members of another family); esp., a private war in which the nearest of kin seek revenge for the slaying of a relative.

vend. ex. abbr. VENDITIONI EXPONAS.

vendible, *adj.* Sellable; fit or suitable to be sold.

venditae (ven-də-tee). [fr. Latin *vendere* "to sell"] *Hist.* A tax on things sold in markets and at public fairs.

venditio (ven-dish-ee-oh). [Latin] *Roman & civil law.* **1.** A sale; VENDITION. **2.** A contract of sale. • In this sense, the term is short for *emptio et venditio*. See EMPTIO. **3.** Broadly, any contract by which the ownership of something may be transferred for value.

vendition, *n.* The act of selling; a sale. — Also termed *venditio*.

venditioni exponas (ven-dish-ee-oh-ni eks-poh-nəs). [Latin "you are to expose for sale"] A writ of execution requiring a sale to be made. • The writ is directed to a sheriff when he has levied upon goods under a *feri facias* but has made return that they remain unsold for lack of buyers. In some jurisdictions, a *venditioni exponas* is issued to require a sale of lands seized under an earlier writ, after they have been condemned or passed upon by inquisition. *Abbr. vend. ex.; v.e.*

vendor (ven-də-tər), *n.* *Hist.* See VENDOR.

vendor regis (ven-də-tər ree-jis). [Latin] *Hist.* The king's seller; esp., the person who sold goods and chattels that had been seized or distrained to answer a debt due to the king.

venditrix (ven-də-triks), *n.* *Hist.* A female vendor.

vendor. A seller, usu. of real property. — Also termed *venditor*.

itinerant vendor. A vendor who travels from place to place selling goods.

vendor's lien. See LIEN.

vendue (ven-d[y]oo or ven-d[y]oo). *Hist.* **1.** A sale; esp., a sale at public auction. **2.** See *execution sale* under SALE.

vendue master. *Hist.* See AUCTIONEER.

venereal disease. See SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE.

venery (ven-ə-ree). *Archaic.* **1.** Hunting. **2.** Sexual intercourse.

venia (vee-nee-ə), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* **1.** A penitent's kneeling or assuming a prostrate posi-

tion on the ground. **2.** A pardon. **3.** The granting of a privilege.

venia aetatis (vee-nee-ə i-tay-tis). *Roman & civil law.* A privilege granted by a prince or sovereign by virtue of which an underage person is entitled to act as if he or she were of full age.

venial (vee-nee-əl), *adj.* (Of a transgression) forgivable; pardonable.

venire (və-nī-ree or -neer-ee or -nīr or -neer). **1.** A panel of persons who have been selected for jury duty and from among whom the jurors are to be chosen. — Also termed *array*; *jury panel*; *jury pool*. **2.** VENIRE FACIAS.

venire de novo. See *venire facias de novo* under VENIRE FACIAS.

venire facias (və-nī-ree [or -neer-ee or -nīr or -neer] fay-shee-əs). A writ directing a sheriff to assemble a jury. — Often shortened to *venire*. — Also termed *venire facias juratores* (juur-ə-tor-eez).

venire facias ad respondendum (ad ree-spon-den-dəm). A writ requiring a sheriff to summon a person against whom an indictment for a misdemeanor has been issued. ● A warrant is now more commonly used.

venire facias de novo (dee or di noh-voh). A writ for summoning a jury panel anew because of some impropriety or irregularity in the original jury's return or verdict so that no judgment can be given on it. ● The result of a new venire is a new trial. In substance, the writ is a motion for new trial, but when the party objects to the verdict because of an error in the course of the proceeding (and not on the merits), the form of motion was traditionally for a venire facias de novo. — Often shortened to *venire de novo*.

venire facias tot matronas (tot mə-troh-nəs). A writ requiring a sheriff to summon a jury of matrons to execute a writ *de ventre inspiciendo*. See DE VENTRE INSPICIENDO.

veniremember (və-nī-ree-mem-bər or və-neer-ee- or və-neer-). A prospective juror; a member of a jury panel. — Also termed *venireman*; *venireperson*; *talesman*. See TALESMAN.

venit et defendit (vee-nit et di-fen-dit). [Latin] Comes and defends. ● This phrase appeared in old-style defensive pleading.

venit et dicit (vee-nit et di-sit). [Latin] Comes and says. ● The phrase appeared in old-style pleading. Its remnant still occurs in some American jurisdictions: *Now comes the plaintiff, and respectfully says . . .*

vente (vawnt or vont). [French] *French law.* A sale; contract of sale.

vente aléatoire (a-lay-ə-twahr). A sale subject to an uncertain event.

vente à réméré (ah ray-may-ray). A conditional sale, in which the seller reserves the right to redeem or repurchase at the same price. ● The term is used in Louisiana and in some parts of Canada.

vente aux enchères (oh-zawn-shair). An auction. See AUCTION.

venter (ven-tər), *n.* [Latin “womb”] **1.** The womb of a wife or mother. **2.** One of two or more women who are sources of the same man's offspring.

“**venter** . . . is a term nowadays considered objectionable, as it refers to the woman merely as the possessor of a birth canal.” Bryan A. Garner, *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* 910 (2d ed. 1995).

ventre inspiciendo. See DE VENTRE INSPICIENDO; *venire facias tot matronas* under VENIRE FACIAS.

venture. An undertaking that involves risk; esp., a speculative commercial enterprise.

venture capital. See CAPITAL.

venturer, n. One who risks something in a business enterprise.

venue (ven-yoo). [Law French “coming”] *Procedure.* **1.** The proper or a possible place for the trial of a lawsuit, usu. because the place has some connection with the events that have given rise to the lawsuit. **2.** The county or other territory over which a trial court has jurisdiction. Cf. JURISDICTION. **3.** Loosely, the place where a conference or meeting is being held. **4.** In a pleading, the statement establishing the place for trial. **5.** In an affidavit, the designation of the place where it was made.

“Venue must be carefully distinguished from jurisdiction. Jurisdiction deals with the power of a court to hear and dispose of a given case; in the federal system, it involves questions of a constitutional dimension concerning the basic division of judicial power among the states and between state and federal courts. Venue is of a distinctly lower level of importance; it is simply a statutory device designed to facilitate and balance the objectives of optimum convenience for parties and witnesses

and efficient allocation of judicial resources." Jack H. Friedenthal et al., *Civil Procedure* § 2.1, at 10 (2d ed. 1993).

"The distinction must be clearly understood between jurisdiction, which is the power to adjudicate, and venue, which relates to the place where judicial authority may be exercised and is intended for the convenience of the litigants. It is possible for jurisdiction to exist though venue in a particular district is improper, and it is possible for a suit to be brought in the appropriate venue though it must be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. The most important difference between venue and jurisdiction is that a party may consent to be sued in a district that otherwise would be an improper venue, and it waives its objection to venue if it fails to assert it promptly. This is in striking contrast to subject-matter jurisdiction, which cannot be conferred by the parties, if it has not been granted by Congress, whether by consent, waiver, or estoppel." Charles Alan Wright, *The Law of Federal Courts* § 42, at 257 (5th ed. 1994).

venue, change of. See CHANGE OF VENUE.

venue facts. Facts that need to be established in a hearing to determine whether venue is proper in a given court.

venville (**ven-vil**), *n.* *Hist.* A tenure peculiar to the area of Dartmoor forest in Devonshire, whereby tenants have certain rights in the forest.

veracious (**və-ray-shəs**), *adj.* Truthful; accurate. — Also termed *veridical*.

veracity (**və-ras-ət-ee**), *n.* **1.** Truthfulness <the witness's fraud conviction supports the defense's challenge to his veracity>. **2.** Accuracy <you called into question the veracity of Murphy's affidavit>. — **veracious** (**və-ray-shəs**), *adj.*

veray (**və-ray**), *adj.* [Law French "true"] *Hist.* True. • This word is an older form of the French *vrai*.

verba (**vər-bə**), *n. pl.* [Latin] Words — esp. oral as opposed to written words.

verbal, *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or expressed in words. **2.** Loosely, of, relating to, or expressed in spoken words.

verbal act. See ACT (2).

verbal-act doctrine. The rule that utterances accompanying conduct that might have legal effect are admissible when the conduct is material to the issue and is equivocal in nature, and

when the words help give the conduct its legal significance.

verbal contract. See *parol contract* (1) under CONTRACT.

verbal note. *Diplomacy.* An unsigned memorandum informally reminding an official of a pending request, an unanswered question, or the like.

verbal will. See *nuncupative will* under WILL.

verba precaria (**vər-bə pri-kair-ee-ə**). [Latin] *Civil law.* **1.** Precatory words. **2.** Words of trust; words of request used in creating a trust.

verbatim ac litteratim (**vər-bay-tim ak lit-ə-ray-tim**), *adv.* (**vər-bay-tim ak li-tər-ay-tim**). [Latin] Word for word and letter for letter. — Also termed *verbatim et litteratim*. — Also spelled *verbatim ac literatim*; *verbatim et literatim*.

verbi gratia (**vər-bi gray-shee-ə**). [Latin "for example"] Words for the sake of example. — Abbr. V.G.

verbruikleasing (**ver-bruuk-layn-ing**), *n.* *Roman Dutch law.* A loan for use; COMMODATUM.

verderer (**vər-dər-ər**), *n.* [fr. French *verdier* "caretaker of green things"] *Hist.* A judicial officer who, being in charge of the king's forest, is sworn to preserve the vert (foliage) and venison, to keep the assizes, and to view, receive, and enroll attachments and presentments on matters involving trespass. — Also spelled *verderor*.

"In all the forests there were a varying number of officers (usually four) elected in the county court, and styled Verderers. Manwood says that they should be 'gentlemen of good account, ability, and living, and well learned in the laws of the forest.' Their chief duty was to attend the forest courts; they served gratuitously; and they were immediately responsible to the crown. Possibly they were regarded as a check upon the Warden, as the coroner was upon the sheriff." 1 William Holdsworth, *A History of English Law* 96 (7th ed. 1956).

verdict. **1.** A jury's finding or decision on the factual issues of a case. **2.** Loosely, in a nonjury trial, a judge's resolution of the issues of a case.

chance verdict. A now-illegal verdict, arrived at by hazard or lot. — Also termed *gambling verdict*; *verdict by lot*.

compromise verdict. A verdict that is reached when jurors concede some issues so they can settle other issues in their favor.

defective verdict. A verdict on which a judgment cannot be based because of irregularities or legal inadequacies.

directed verdict. A judgment entered on the order of a trial judge who takes over the fact-finding role of the jury because the evidence is so compelling that only one decision can reasonably follow or because it fails to establish a prima facie case. — Also termed *instructed verdict*.

excessive verdict. A verdict that results from the jury's passion or prejudice and thereby shocks the court's conscience.

false verdict. A verdict so contrary to the evidence and so unjust that the judge may set it aside.

gambling verdict. See *chance verdict*.

general verdict. A verdict by which the jury finds in favor of one party or the other, as opposed to resolving specific fact questions. Cf. *special verdict*.

general verdict subject to a special case. *Archaic.* A court's verdict rendered without regard to the jury's general verdict, given when a party does not want to put the legal question on the record but merely wants the court to decide on the basis of a written statement of all the facts in the case, prepared for the opinion of the court by counsel on either side, according to the principles of a special verdict, whereupon the court decides the special case submitted and gives judgment accordingly.

general verdict with interrogatories. A general verdict accompanied by answers to written interrogatories on one or more issues of fact that bear on the verdict.

guilty verdict. A jury's formal pronouncement that a defendant is guilty of the charged offense.

instructed verdict. See *directed verdict*.

joint verdict. A verdict covering two or more parties to a lawsuit.

legally inconsistent verdict. A verdict in which the same element is found to exist and not to exist, as when a defendant is acquitted of one offense and convicted of another, when the offenses arise from the same set of facts and an element of the second offense requires proof that the first offense has been committed.

open verdict. A verdict of a coroner's jury finding that the subject "came to his death by means to the jury unknown" or "came to his death at the hands of a person or persons to the jury unknown." • Such a verdict leaves open either the question whether any crime was committed or the identity of the criminal.

partial verdict. A verdict by which a jury finds a criminal defendant innocent of some charges and guilty of other charges.

perverse verdict. A jury verdict so contrary to the evidence that it justifies the granting of a new trial.

privy verdict (priv-ee). *Hist.* A verdict given after the judge has left or adjourned the court, and the jury, having agreed, obtain leave to give their verdict privately to the judge out of court so that the jurors can be delivered from their confinement. • Such a verdict was of no force unless afterwards affirmed by a public verdict given in open court. This practice has been superseded by that of rendering a sealed verdict.

public verdict. A verdict delivered by the jury in open court.

quotient verdict. An improper verdict that a jury arrives at by totaling their individual damage awards and dividing by the number of jurors.

repugnant verdict. A verdict that contradicts itself in that the defendant is convicted and acquitted of different crimes having identical elements. • Sometimes the inconsistency occurs in a single verdict (*repugnant verdict*), and sometimes it occurs in two separate verdicts (*repugnant verdicts*). Both terms are used mainly in New York.

responsive verdict. *Civil law.* A verdict that properly answers the indictment with specific findings prescribed by statute, the possible findings being guilty, not guilty, and guilty of a lesser-included offense.

sealed verdict. A written verdict put into a sealed envelope when the jurors have agreed on their decision but when court is not in session at the time. • Upon delivering a sealed verdict, the jurors may separate. When court convenes again, this verdict is officially returned with the same effect as if the jury had returned it in open court before separating. This type of verdict is useful to avoid detaining the jurors until the next session of court.

special verdict. A verdict that gives a written finding for each issue, leaving the application of the law to the judge. Cf. *general verdict*.

split verdict. **1.** A verdict in which one party prevails on some claims, while the other party prevails on others. **2.** *Criminal law.* A verdict finding a defendant guilty on one charge but innocent on another. **3.** *Criminal law.* A verdict of guilty for one defendant and of not guilty for a codefendant.

true verdict. A verdict that is reached voluntarily — even if one or more jurors freely compromise their views — and not as a result of an arbitrary rule or order, whether imposed by the jurors themselves, the court, or a court officer.

verdict by lot. See *chance verdict*.

verdict contrary to law. A verdict that the law does not authorize a jury to render because the conclusion drawn is not justified by the evidence.

verdict subject to opinion of court. A verdict that is subject to the court's determination of a legal issue reserved to the court upon the trial, so that judgment is ultimately entered depending on the court's ruling on a point of law.

verdicto. See NON OBSTANTE VEREDICTO.

verdictum (ver-ə-dik-təm), *n.* *Hist.* A verdict; a declaration of the truth of a matter in issue, submitted to a jury for trial.

verge (vɜrj), *n.* *Hist.* **1.** The area within 12 miles of the place where the king held his court and within which the king's peace was enforced. • This area was commonly referred to as being *in the verge*. The verge got its name from the staff (called a "verge") that the marshal bore. **2.** The compass of the royal court, within which the lord steward and marshal of the king's household had special jurisdiction. — Also termed *Court of Verge*. **3.** The neighborhood of Whitehall, the section of London in which British government offices have traditionally been located. **4.** An uncertain quantity of land from 15 to 30 acres. **5.** A stick or rod by which a person, after holding the stick and swearing fealty, is admitted as a tenant to a copyhold estate. For *tenant by the verge*, see COPYHOLDER. — Also spelled *virge*.

vergens ad inopiam (vɜr-jenz ad in-oh-pee-əm), *adj.* [Latin] *Civil law.* Tending to become insolvent.

verger, *n.* One who carries a verge (a rod) as an emblem of office; esp., an attendant on a bishop or justice.

veridical (və-rid-ə-kəl). See VERACIOUS.

verification, *n.* **1.** A formal declaration made in the presence of an authorized officer, such as a notary public, by which one swears to the truth of the statements in the document. • Traditionally, a verification is used as a conclusion for all pleadings that do not tender issue. Cf. ACKNOWLEDGMENT (4). **2.** An oath or affirmation that an authorized officer administers to an affiant or deponent. **3.** Loosely, ACKNOWLEDGMENT (5). **4.** See *certified copy* under COPY. **5.** CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY. **6.** Any act of notarizing. — **verify**, *vb.* — **verifier**, *n.* Cf. JURAT (1).

verified copy. See *certified copy* under COPY.

verify, *vb.* **1.** To prove to be true; to confirm or establish the truth or truthfulness of; to authenticate. **2.** To confirm or substantiate by oath or affidavit; to swear to the truth of.

verily, *adv.* *Archaic.* Truly; in fact; certainly.

veritas (ver-i-tas or -tahs), *n.* [Latin] **1.** Truth. **2.** (*cap.*) An international institution of maritime underwriters for the survey and rating of vessels. • Founded in Belgium in 1828, it moved to Paris in 1832 and has long been represented all over the world. — Also termed *Bureau Veritas*.

verity (ver-ə-tee). Truth; truthfulness; conformity to fact.

vermenging (vɜr-meng-ing), *n.* [Dutch "mingling"] The extinction of a debt when the debtor's and the creditor's interests merge, as in a corporate merger.

verna (vɜr-nə). *Hist.* A slave born in the slaveholder's house.

versari (vɜr-sair-I), *vb.* [Latin] **1.** To be employed. **2.** To be conversant.

versari in re illicita (vɜr-sair-I in ree i-lis-ə-tə). [Latin] To be engaged in an unlawful activity (as a bar to a claim for damages).

versus, *prep.* Against. — Abbr. v.; vs.

vert (vɜrt). *Hist.* **1.** Anything that grows and bears green leaves within a forest. **2.** A power, given by royal grant, to cut green wood in a forest.

vertical competition. See COMPETITION.

vertical integration. See INTEGRATION (4).

vertical merger. See MERGER.

vertical nonprivity. See NONPRIVITY.

vertical price-fixing. See PRICE-FIXING.

vertical privity. See PRIVITY.

vertical restraint. See RESTRAINT OF TRADE.

vertical trust. See TRUST.

vertical union. See *industrial union* under UNION.

verus (*veer*-əs), *adj.* [Latin] True; truthful; genuine; actual.

very heavy work. See WORK.

vessel. A ship, brig, sloop, or other craft used — or capable of being used — to navigate on water. • To qualify as a vessel under the Jones Act, the structure's purpose must to some reasonable degree be the transportation of passengers, cargo, or equipment from place to place across navigable waters.

foreign vessel. A vessel owned by residents of, or sailing under the flag of, a foreign nation.

Jones Act vessel. A craft designed or used for transporting cargo or people on navigable waters, or that was being used for navigation at the time of a worker's injury. • For an injured worker to qualify as a seaman, and to be entitled to recover under the Jones Act, the worker must have been assigned to a vessel. A craft qualifies as a vessel if it is designed or used primarily for transportation on navigable waters, or if it was being used for navigational purposes at the time the worker was injured. But if the injury occurred, for example, on a work platform that was securely anchored and had no independent means of navigation, the platform would not qualify as a vessel and a claim under the Jones Act would fail.

public vessel. A vessel owned and used by a nation or government for its public service, whether in its navy, its revenue service, or otherwise.

sea-going vessel. A vessel that — considering its design, function, purpose and capabili-

ties — is normally expected both to carry passengers for hire and to engage in substantial operations beyond the boundary line (set by the Coast Guard) dividing inland waters from the high seas. • Typically excluded from the definition are pleasure yachts, tugs and towboats, fishing boats, and other vessels that do not ordinarily carry passengers for hire.

"Despite the important role a 'vessel' plays in maritime law, there is no settled definition of the term. Congress has defined a vessel as including 'every description of watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water.' 1 U.S.C.A. § 3. The Supreme Court has defined vessels as 'all navigable structures intended for transportation.' *Cope v. Vallette Dry-Dock Co.*, 119 U.S. 625 (1887)." Frank L. Maraist, *Admiralty in a Nutshell* 14 (3d ed. 1996).

seaworthy vessel. A vessel that can withstand the ordinary stress of the wind, waves, and other weather that seagoing vessels might ordinarily be expected to encounter. See SEAWORTHY.

vest, vb. **1.** To confer ownership of (property) upon a person. **2.** To invest (a person) with the full title to property. **3.** To give (a person) an immediate, fixed right of present or future enjoyment. **4. Hist.** To put (a person) into possession of land by the ceremony of investiture. — **vesting, n.**

vested, adj. Having become a completed, consummated right for present or future enjoyment; not contingent; unconditional; absolute <a vested interest in the estate>.

"[U]nfortunately, the word 'vested' is used in two senses. Firstly, an interest may be vested *in possession*, when there is a right to present enjoyment, e.g. when I own and occupy Blackacre. But an interest may be vested, even where it does not carry a right to immediate possession, if it does confer a fixed right of taking possession in the future." George Whitecross Paton, *A Textbook of Jurisprudence* 305 (G.W. Paton & David P. Derham eds., 4th ed. 1972).

"A future interest is *vested* if it meets two requirements: first, that there be no *condition precedent* to the interest's becoming a present estate other than the *natural expiration* of those estates that are prior to it in possession; and second, that it be *theoretically* possible to identify who would get the right to possession if the interest should become a present estate *at any time*." Thomas F. Bergin & Paul G. Haskell, *Preface to Estates in Land and Future Interests* 66-67 (2d ed. 1984).

vested in interest. Consummated in a way that will result in future enjoyment. • Reversions, vested remainders, and any other future use or executory devise that does not depend on an uncertain period or event are all said to be vested in interest.

vested in possession. Consummated in a way that has resulted in present enjoyment.

vested estate. See ESTATE.

vested gift. See GIFT.

vested interest. See INTEREST (2).

vested legacy. See LEGACY.

vested ownership. See OWNERSHIP.

vested pension. See PENSION.

vested remainder. See REMAINDER.

vested right. See RIGHT.

vestigial words (ve-stij-ee-əl). Statutory words and phrases that, through a succession of amendments, have been rendered useless or meaningless. • Courts do not allow vestigial words to defeat the fair meaning of a statute.

vestigium (ve-stij-ee-əm). *Archaic.* A vestige, mark, or sign; a trace, track, or impression left by a person or a physical object.

vesting order. A court order passing legal title in lieu of a legal conveyance.

vestita manus (ves-ti-tə may-nəs), *n.* [Latin “vested hand”] *Hist.* The right hand used in the ceremony of investiture.

vestitive fact (ves-tə-tiv). See *dispositive fact* under FACT.

vestry (ves-tree). *Eccles. law.* **1.** The place in a church where the priest’s robes are deposited. — Also termed *sacristy*. **2.** An assembly of the minister, church wardens, and parishioners to conduct church business.

vestry clerk. *Eccles. law.* An officer appointed to attend vestries and to take minutes of the proceedings.

vesture (ves-chər). *Hist.* **1.** The corn, grass, underwood, stubble, or other growth — apart from trees — that covers the land. — Also termed *vestura* (ves-t[y]oor-ə); *vestura terrae* (ter-ee); *vesture of land*. **2.** Seisin; investiture.

veteran. A person who, having been in military service, has been honorably discharged.

Veterans Affairs, Department of. An independent federal agency that administers benefit programs for veterans and their families. — Abbr. VA. — Also termed *Veterans Administration*.

Veterans Appeals, U.S. Court of. See UNITED STATES COURT OF VETERANS APPEALS.

vetera statuta (vet-ə-rə sta-t[y]oo-tə), *n. pl.* [Law Latin “ancient statutes”] The statutes from Magna Carta (1215) to the end of Edward II’s reign (1327). — Also termed *antiqua statuta* (an-ti-kwə stə-t[y]oo-tə). Cf. NOVA STATUTA.

vetitive (vet-ə-tiv), *adj.* Of, relating to, or having the power to veto.

vetitum narium (vet-ə-təm nay-mee-əm), *n.* [Law Latin “a prohibited taking”] *Hist.* See NARIUM VETITUM.

veto (vee-toh), *n.* [Latin “I forbid”] **1.** A power of one governmental branch to prohibit an action by another branch; esp., a chief executive’s refusal to sign into law a bill passed by the legislature. **2.** VETO MESSAGE. *Pl.* **veto**es. — **veto**, *vb.*

absolute veto. An unrestricted veto that is not subject to being overridden.

legislative veto. A veto that allowed Congress to block a federal executive or agency action taken under congressionally delegated authority. • The Supreme Court held the legislative veto unconstitutional in *INS v. Chadha*, 462 U.S. 919, 103 S.Ct. 2764 (1983). See DELEGATION DOCTRINE.

liberum veto (lib-ər-əm). *Hist.* Formerly in Poland, the right of any single member of the diet to invalidate a measure.

limited veto. See *qualified veto*.

line-item veto. The executive’s power to veto some provisions in a legislative bill without affecting other provisions. • The U.S. Supreme Court declared the presidential line-item veto unconstitutional in 1998. See *Clin-ton v. City of New York*, 524 U.S. 417, 118 S.Ct. 2091 (1998). — Also termed *item veto*.

negative veto. See *qualified veto*.

overridden veto. A veto that the legislature has superseded by again passing the vetoed act, usu. by a supermajority of legislators. • In the federal government, a bill vetoed by the President must receive a two-thirds majority in Congress to override the veto and enact the measure into law.

pocket veto. A veto resulting from the President's failure to sign a bill passed within the last ten days of the legislative session.

qualified veto. A veto that is conclusive unless overridden by an extraordinary majority of the legislature. • This is the type of veto that the President of the United States has. — Also termed *limited veto*; *negative veto*.

suspensory veto (sə-spen-sə-ree). A veto that suspends a law until the legislature reconsiders it and then allows the law to take effect if repassed by an ordinary majority. — Also termed *suspensive veto*.

vetoer, n. One who vetoes. — Also termed *vetoist*.

veto message. A document communicating the reasons for the executive's not officially approving a proposed law. — Sometimes shortened to *veto*.

veto power. An executive's conditional power to prevent an act that has passed the legislature from becoming law.

vetus jus (vee-təs jəs). *Roman & civil law.* **1.** The law of the Twelve Tables. See TWELVE TABLES. **2.** Long-established or ancient law. **3.** A law in force before the passage of a later law.

vex, vb. To harass, disquiet, and annoy.

vexari (vek-sair-i), *vb.* [Latin] To be harassed, vexed, or annoyed.

vexata quaestio (vek-say-tə kwes-chee-oh). See VEXED QUESTION.

vexation. The injury or damage that is suffered as a result of another's trickery or malice.

vexatious (vek-say-shəs), *adj.* (Of conduct) without reasonable or probable cause or excuse; harassing; annoying.

vexatious delay. An insurance company's unjustifiable refusal to pay on an insurance claim, esp. based on a mere suspicion but no hard facts that the claim is ill-founded. — Also termed *vexatious refusal to pay*; *refusal to pay*.

vexatious lawsuit. See VEXATIOUS SUIT.

vexatious proceeding. See VEXATIOUS SUIT.

vexatious refusal to pay. See VEXATIOUS DELAY.

vexatious suit. A lawsuit instituted maliciously and without good cause. — Also termed *vexatious lawsuit*; *vexatious litigation*; *vexatious proceeding*. Cf. MALICIOUS PROSECUTION.

vexed question. **1.** A question often argued about but seemingly never settled. **2.** A question or point that has been decided differently by different tribunals and has therefore been left in doubt. — Also termed *vexata quaestio* (vek-say-tə kwes-tee-oh).

v.g. abbr. VERBI GRATIA.

via (vi-ə). [Latin "way, road"] *Roman & civil law.* **1.** A road, way, or right-of-way.

via publica (vi-ə pəb-li-kə). [Latin] *Roman & civil law.* A public way or road. • The land itself belongs to the public.

2. A type of rural servitude that gave people the right to walk, ride, or drive over another's land. • *Via* encompassed both *iter* (a footpath) and *actus* (a driftway). **3.** *Civil law.* The way in which legal procedures are followed.

via executiva (vi-ə eg-zek-yə-ti-və). *Civil law.* Executory process whereby the debtor's property is seized, without previous citation, for some reason specified by law, usu. because of an act or title amounting to a confession of judgment.

via ordinaria (vi-ə or-di-nair-ee-ə). *Civil law.* The ordinary way or process whereby a citation is served and all the usual forms of law are followed.

viable (vi-ə-bəl), *adj.* **1.** Capable of living, esp. outside the womb <a viable fetus>. **2.** Capable of independent existence or standing <a viable lawsuit>. — **viability** (vi-ə-bil-ə-tee), *n.*

viae servitus (vi-ee sər-və-təs). [Latin "a servitude of way"] *Roman law.* A right-of-way over another's land.

via executiva. See VIA (3).

via facti (vi-ə fak-ti), *adv.* [Law Latin "by way of deed"] By force; in a forcible way.

viagère rente. See RENTE VIAGÈRE.

via ordinaria. See VIA (3).

via publica. See VIA (1).

via regia (vi-ə ree-jee-ə). [Latin "the king's highway"] *Hist.* The highway or common road — called the "king's highway" because the king authorized and protected it.

viatical settlement. See SETTLEMENT.

viatication (vi-at-ə-kay-shən). [fr. Latin *viaticus* "relating to a road or journey"] The purchase of a terminally or chronically ill policyholder's life insurance in exchange for a lump-sum payment. See *viatical settlement* under SETTLEMENT.

viator (vi-ay-tər). **1.** APPARITOR (1). **2.** A terminally or chronically ill life-insurance policyholder who sells the policy to a third party in return for a lump-sum payment equal to a percentage of the policy's face value.

viatorial privilege. See PRIVILEGE (1).

vi aut clam (vi awt klam), *adv.* [Latin] By force or covertly.

vicar. **1.** One who performs the functions of another; a substitute. **2.** The incumbent of an appropriated impropriated ecclesiastical benefice. Cf. RECTOR.

vicarage (vik-ər-ij). **1.** The benefice of a vicar. **2.** The house or household of a vicar. **3.** VICARSHIP.

vicar general. An ecclesiastical officer who helps the archbishop in the discharge of his office.

vicarial tithe (vi-kair-ee-əl). See TITHE.

vicarious (vi-kair-ee-əs), *adj.* Performed or suffered by one person as substitute for another; indirect; surrogate.

vicarious disqualification. See DISQUALIFICATION.

vicarious infringement. See INFRINGEMENT.

vicarious liability. See LIABILITY.

vicarius apostolicus (vi-kair-ee-əs ap-əs-tahl-əkəs), *n.* [Latin "apostolic vicar"] *Eccles. law.* An officer through whom the Pope exercises authority in remote regions. • This officer is

sometimes sent with episcopal functions into provinces where there is no bishop resident or where there has long been a vacancy in the see.

vicarship. The office, function, or duty of a vicar. — Also termed *vicarage*.

vice (vi-see or vi-sə), *prep.* In the place of; in the stead of. • As a prefix, *vice-* (vis) denotes one who takes the place of.

vice (vis), *n.* **1.** A moral failing; an ethical fault. **2.** Wickedness; corruption. **3.** Broadly, any defect or failing.

vice-admiralty. **1.** The office of a vice-admiral. **2.** *Hist.* A civil officer exercising admiralty jurisdiction within a specific locale.

vice-admiralty court. *Hist.* A tribunal established in British possessions beyond the seas, with jurisdiction over maritime cases, including those related to prize. • The governor of the colony, in the capacity of "vice-admiral," exercised judicial authority in this court.

vice-chamberlain. *Hist.* A great officer under the lord chamberlain. • In the lord chamberlain's absence, the vice-chamberlain would control and command the officers attached to the part of the royal household called the "chamber."

vice-chancellor. A judge appointed to act for the chancellor, esp. in a chancery court. — Abbr. VC.

vice-comes (vi-sə-koh-meez), *n.* [Law Latin] *Hist.* **1.** VISCOUNT. **2.** SHERIFF. — Also spelled *vicecomes*.

vicecomital (vi-sə-kom-ətəl). See VICONTIEL.

vice-comitissa (vi-sə-kom-ətis-ə). See VISCONTRESS.

vice-commercial agent. *Hist.* In the consular service of the United States, a consular officer who was substituted temporarily to fill the place of a commercial agent who was absent or had been relieved from duty.

vice-consul. A consular officer subordinate to a consul; esp., one who is substituted temporarily to fill the place of a consul who is absent or has been relieved from duty.

career vice-consul. A vice-consul who is a member of the Foreign Service. — Also termed *vice-consul of career*.

noncareer vice-consul. A vice-consul who is not a member of the Foreign Service and who is appointed without examination.

vice crime. See CRIME.

vice-dominus episcopi (vi-sə-dom-ə-nəs ə-pis-kə-pl). **1.** A vicar general. **2.** A commissary of a bishop.

vicegerent (vis-jeer-ənt). A deputy; lieutenant.

vice-governor, n. A deputy or lieutenant governor.

vice-judex (vis-joo-deks). *Hist.* A deputy judge.

vice-marshal. An officer appointed to assist the earl marshal. See EARL MARSHAL.

vice president, n. **1.** An officer selected in advance to fill the presidency if the president dies, becomes incapacitated, resigns, or is removed from office. • The Vice President of the United States, who is elected at the same time as the President, serves as presiding officer of the Senate. On the death, incapacity, resignation, or removal of the President, the Vice President succeeds to the presidency. **2.** A corporate officer of mid-level to high rank, usu. having charge of a department. — Also written *vice-president*. — **vice presidency, n.** — **vice presidential, adj.**

vice principal. See FELLOW-SERVANT RULE.

viceregent, n. **1.** A deputy regent; esp., one who acts in the place of a ruler, governor, or sovereign. **2.** More broadly, an officer deputed by a superior or by proper authority to exercise the powers of the higher authority; one with delegated power.

viceroyn, n. The governor of a kingdom or colony, who rules as the deputy of a monarch. — **viceroynal, viceregal, adj.**

vice-sheriff. See *deputy sheriff* under SHERIFF.

vice-treasurer, n. A deputy or assistant treasurer.

vicinage (vis-ə-nij). [Law French “neighborhood”] **1.** Vicinity; proximity. **2.** The place

where a crime is committed or a trial is held; the place from which jurors are to be drawn for trial; esp., the locale from which the accused is entitled to have jurors selected. — Also termed *vicinetum*.

“Whereas venue refers to the locality in which charges will be brought and adjudicated, vicinage refers to the locality from which jurors will be drawn. . . . The vicinage concept requires that the jurors be selected from a geographical district that includes the locality of the commission of the crime, and it traditionally also mandates that such district not extend too far beyond the general vicinity of that locality.” Wayne R. LaFare & Jerold H. Israel, *Criminal Procedure* § 16.1, at 738–39 (2d ed. 1992).

3. A right of common that neighboring tenants have in a barony or fee.

vicious propensity. An animal’s tendency to endanger the safety of persons or property.

vicontiel (vi-kon-tee-əl). **1.** Of or relating to a viscount. **2.** Of or relating to a sheriff. — Also spelled *vicountiel*. — Also termed *vicecomital*.

vicontiel rent. Hist. Rent that a viscount or sheriff pays for the use of a royal farm.

vicontiels (vi-kon-tee-əl-z). *Hist.* **1.** Money payable by a viscount or sheriff to the Crown. **2.** Vicontiel rents.

vicontiel writ. See WRIT.

victim, n. A person harmed by a crime, tort, or other wrong. — **victimize, vb.** — **victimization, n.**

victim allocution. See ALLOCUTION.

victim-impact statement. A statement read into the record during sentencing to inform the judge or jury of the financial, physical, and psychological impact of the crime on the victim and the victim’s family.

victimless crime. See CRIME.

victualer (vit-əl-ər). *Hist.* **1.** A person authorized by law to keep a house of entertainment for the public; a publican. **2.** A person who serves food or drink prepared for consumption on the premises. — Also spelled *victualler*.

victual rent. Scots law. A rent paid in grain or its monetary equivalent.

victus (vik-təs). *Civil law*. Sustenance; support; a means of living.

vidame (vee-dam). [French] *Hist.* In French feudal law, an officer who represented the bishop. • Over time, these officers erected their offices into fiefs and became feudal nobles, such as the *vidame* of Chartres, Rheims, etc. They continued to take their titles from the seat of the bishop whom they represented, even though the lands held by virtue of their fiefs might be situated elsewhere.

vide (vi-dee also vee-day). [Latin] See. • This is a citation signal still seen in some texts, esp. in the abbreviated form *q.v.* (*quod vide* “which see”). *Vide ante* or *vide supra* refers to a previous passage in a text; *vide post* or *vide infra* refers to a later passage.

videlicet (vi-del-ə-set or -sit). [Latin] To wit; that is to say; namely; SCILICET. • The term is used primarily to point out, particularize, or render more specific what has been previously stated in general (or occasionally obscure) language. One common function is to state the time, place, or manner when that is the essence of the matter at issue. — Abbr. *viz.* See *VIZ.*

vidimus (vid-ə-məs), *n.* [Latin “we have seen”] 1. An inspection of documents, etc. 2. An abstract, syllabus, or summary. 3. An attested copy of a document. 4. *INSPEXIMUS.*

vidua regis (vij-oo-ə ree-jis), *n.* [Latin] 1. The widow of the king. 2. The widow of a tenant in capite. • In sense 2, she was so called because she was not allowed to marry a second time without the king’s permission. She obtained her dower from the king, who was her patron and defender.

viduitatis professio (və-d[y]oo-ə-tay-tis prə-fes[h]-ee-oh), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* A woman’s solemn act of professing that she will live as a single, chaste woman.

viduity (vi-d[y]oo-ə-tee). *Archaic.* Widowhood.

vie (vee). [French] Life. • The term occurs in such Law French phrases as *cestui que vie* and *pur autre vie*.

vi et armis (vi et ahr-mis). [Latin] *Hist.* By or with force and arms. See *trespass vi et armis* under *TRESPASS.*

“The words ‘with force and arms,’ anciently ‘vi et armis,’ were, by the common law, necessary in indictments for

offences which amount to an actual disturbance of the peace, or consist, in any way, of acts of violence; but it seems to be the better opinion, that they were never necessary where the offence consisted of a cheat, or non-feazance, or a mere consequential injury.” 1 Joseph Chitty, *A Practical Treatise on the Criminal Law* 240 (2d ed. 1826).

“*vi et armis* . . . was a necessary part of the allegation, in medieval pleading, that a trespass had been committed with force and therefore was a matter for the King’s Court because it involved a breach of the peace. In England, the term survived as a formal requirement of pleading until 1852.” Bryan A. Garner, *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* 916 (2d ed. 1995).

view, *n.* 1. The common-law right of prospect — that is, an outlook from the windows of one’s house. 2. An urban servitude that prohibits the obstruction of the outlook from a person’s house. 3. A jury’s inspection of a place relevant to a case it is considering; the act or proceeding by which a tribunal goes to observe an object that cannot be produced in court because it is immovable or inconvenient to remove. • The appropriate procedures are typically regulated by state statute. At common law, and today in many civil cases, the trial judge’s presence is not required. The common practice has been for the jury to be conducted to the scene by “showers” who are commissioned for this purpose. Parties and counsel are generally permitted to attend, although this is a matter typically within the trial judge’s discretion. Cf. *VIEW OF AN INQUEST.* 4. In a real action, a defendant’s observation of the thing at issue to ascertain its identity and other circumstances surrounding it. Cf. *DEMAND OF VIEW.*

viewer. A person, usu. one of several, appointed by a court to investigate certain matters or to examine a particular locality (such as the proposed site of a new road) and to report to the court.

view of an inquest. A jury’s inspection of a place or property to which an inquiry or inquest refers. Cf. *VIEW* (3).

view of frankpledge. *Hist.* The twice-yearly gathering and inspection of every freeman within the district who was more than 12 years old to determine whether each one had taken the oath of allegiance and had found nine freeman pledges for his peaceable demeanor. See *FRANKPLEDGE.*

vif-gage (veef-gayj or vif-). [Law French] See *vadium vivum* under *VADIUM.*

vigil. *Eccles. law.* The day before any solemn feast.

vigilance. Watchfulness; precaution; a proper degree of activity and promptness in pursuing one's rights, in guarding them from infraction, and in discovering opportunities for enforcing one's lawful claims and demands.

vigilant, *adj.* Watchful and cautious; on the alert; attentive to discover and avoid danger.

vigilante (vij-ə-lan-tee). A person who seeks to avenge a crime by taking the law into his or her own hands.

vigilantism (vij-ə-lan-tiz-əm). The act of a citizen who takes the law into his or her own hands by apprehending and punishing suspected criminals.

viis et modis (vi-is et moh-dis). [Latin] *Eccles. law.* By all ways and means. • In ecclesiastical courts, service of a decree or citation *viis et modis* is equivalent to substituted service in temporal courts. It is opposed to personal service.

vi laica amovenda. See DE VI LAICA AMOVENDA.

vill (vil). *Hist.* **1.** A part into which a hundred or wapentake was divided. **2.** A town or village.

village. **1.** Traditionally, a modest assemblage of houses and buildings for dwellings and businesses. **2.** In some states, a municipal corporation with a smaller population than a city. — Also termed (in sense 2) *town*; *borough*.

villanis regis subtractis reducendis (vi-lay-nis ree-jis səb-trak-tis ree-d[y]loo-sen-dis), *n.* [Latin "for returning the king's villeins who have been removed"] *Hist.* A writ that lay for the bringing back of the king's bondmen who had been carried away by others out of his manors, where they belonged.

villanum servitium (vi-lay-nəm sər-vish-ee-əm), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* See VILLEINAGE (1).

villein (vil-ən). *Hist.* A person entirely subject to a lord or attached to a manor, but free in relation to all others; a serf. • At the time of the Domesday Inquest (shortly after the Norman Conquest), about 40% of households were marked as belonging to villeins: they were the

most numerous element in the English population. Cf. FREEMAN.

villein in gross. A villein who was annexed to the person of the lord, and transferable by deed from one owner to another.

villein regardant (ri-gahr-dənt). A villein annexed to the manor of land.

villeinage (vil-ə-nij). *Hist.* **1.** The holding of property through servitude to a feudal lord; a servile type of tenure in which a tenant was obliged to render to a lord base services. Cf. KNIGHT-SERVICE; SOCAGE. **2.** A villein's status, condition, or service. — Also spelled *villenage*; *villainage*; *villanage*.

"At the lower level the services were not always defined. The duties of the peasant were chiefly agricultural. If they were unfixed, so that the lord might in theory demand all manner of work, the tenure was 'unfree' and was called *villeinage*." J.H. Baker, *An Introduction to English Legal History* 260 (3d ed. 1990).

privileged villeinage. Villeinage in which the services to be performed were certain, though of a base and servile nature.

pure villeinage. Villeinage in which the services were not certain, but the tenant was obliged to do whatever he was commanded whenever the command came.

villein in gross. See VILLEIN.

villein regardant. See VILLEIN.

villein service. *Hist.* A base service that a villein performed, such as working on the lord's land on certain days of the week (usu. two to four). • These services were not considered suitable to a man of free and honorable rank. — Also termed *villein servitium*. See WEEK-WORK.

villein socage (sok-ij). See SOCAGE.

villenous judgment (vil-ə-nəs). *Hist.* A judgment that deprived a person of his *libera lex*, as a result of which he was discredited and disabled as a juror and witness, forfeited his goods and chattels and land, had his houses razed and trees uprooted, and went to prison. — Also spelled *villainous judgment*.

vinagium (vi-nay-jee-əm). A payment in kind of wine as rent for a vineyard.

vinculación (vin-koo-lah-syohn). *Spanish law.* An entail.

vinculo (ving-kyə-loh). *Spanish law*. The bond of marriage. See *divorce a vinculo matrimonii* under DIVORCE.

vinculum juris (ving-kyə-ləm juor-is), *n.* [Latin "a bond of the law"] *Roman law*. The tie that legally binds one person to another; legal bond; obligation. Cf. SOLUTIO OBLIGATIONIS.

vindex (vin-deks). [Latin] *Civil law*. A defender.

vindicare (vin-di-kair-ee), *vb.* [Latin "to claim or challenge"] *Hist.* To demand as one's own; to assert a right in or to (a thing); to assert or claim ownership of (a thing).

vindicate, *vb.* **1.** To clear (a person or thing) from suspicion, criticism, blame, or doubt <the serial killer will never be vindicated in the minds of the victims' families>. **2.** To assert, maintain, or affirm (one's interest) by action <the claimants sought to vindicate their rights through a class-action proceeding>. **3.** To defend (one's interest) against interference or encroachment <the borrower vindicated its interest in court when the lender attempted to foreclose>. **4.** To clear from censure or suspicion by means of demonstration. **5.** *Roman & civil law*. To assert a legal right to (a thing); to seek recovery of (a thing) by legal process <Antony Honoratus attempted to vindicate the sword he had lent his cousin>. — **vindication**, *n.* — **vindicator**, *n.*

vindicatio (vin-di-kay-shee-oh), *n.* [Latin "claim"] **1.** *Roman law*. An action by the owner to recover property. **2.** *Civil law*. The claiming of a thing as one's own; the assertion of a right in or title to a thing.

vindicatio servitutis (vin-di-kay-shee-oh sər-və-t[y]oo-tis). [Latin "claim of servitude"] *Roman law*. An action against the owner of land on which the plaintiff claims a servitude. — Also termed *actio confessoria*.

vindictory part (vin-də-kə-tor-ee). The portion of a statute that sets forth the penalty for committing a wrong or neglecting a duty.

vindicta (vin-dik-tə), *n.* *Roman law*. **1.** A rod or wand. **2.** By extension, a legal act by which a person holding a rod or wand manumitted a slave.

vindictive damages. See *punitive damages* under DAMAGES.

vindictive prosecution (vin-dik-tiv). The practice of singling a person out for prosecution under a law or regulation because the person has exercised a constitutionally protected right. Cf. *selective enforcement* under ENFORCEMENT.

viocontiel writ. See WRIT.

viol (vyohl), *n.* [French] *French law*. Rape; indecent assault.

violation, *n.* **1.** An infraction or breach of the law; a transgression. **2.** The act of breaking or dishonoring the law; the contravention of a right or duty. **3.** Rape; ravishment. **4.** Under the Model Penal Code, a public-welfare offense. ● In this sense, a violation is not a crime. See Model Penal Code § 1.04(5). — **violate**, *vb.* — **violative** (vi-ə-lay-tiv), *adj.* — **violator**, *n.*

violence. Unjust or unwarranted use of force, usu. accompanied by fury, vehemence, or outrage; physical force unlawfully exercised with the intent to harm. ● Some courts have held that violence in labor disputes is not limited to physical contact or injury, but may include picketing conducted with misleading signs, false statements, erroneous publicity, and veiled threats by words and acts.

domestic violence. Violence between members of a household, usu. spouses; an assault or other violent act committed by one member of a household against another. See BATTERED-CHILD SYNDROME; BATTERED-WOMAN SYNDROME.

violent, *adj.* **1.** Of, relating to, or characterized by strong physical force <violent blows to the legs>. **2.** Resulting from extreme or intense force <violent death>. **3.** Vehemently or passionately threatening <violent words>.

violent crime. See CRIME.

violent death. See DEATH.

violent offense. A crime characterized by extreme physical force, such as murder, forcible rape, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. — Also termed *violent felony*.

violent profits. *Scots law*. Rents or profits of an estate kept by a holdover tenant who has already been warned by the landlord not to keep them.

- vir** (veer), *n.* **1.** An adult male; a man. **2.** A husband. • In the Latin phrases and maxims that once pervaded English law, *vir* generally means “husband,” as in the expression *vir et uxor* (corresponding to the Law French *baron et feme*).
- vires** (vi-reez), *n.* **1.** Natural powers; forces. **2.** Granted powers, esp. when limited. See ULTRA VIRES; INTRA VIRES.
- vir et uxor** (veer et ək-sor). [Latin] Husband and wife.
- virga** (vər-gə). *Hist.* A rod or staff; esp., a rod as an ensign of office.
- virgata** (vər-gay-tə). **1.** A quarter of an acre of land. See ACRE. **2.** A quarter of a hide of land. See HIDE.
- virgata regia** (vər-gay-tə ree-jee-ə). [Latin “king’s verge”] *Hist.* The bounds of the king’s household, within which the court of the steward had jurisdiction.
- virga terrae** (vər-gə ter-ee), *n.* [Latin “branch of land”] *Hist.* A variable measure of land ranging from 20 to 40 acres. — Also termed *virgata terrae*. See YARDLAND.
- virge**. See VERGE.
- viridario eligendo** (vir-ə-dair-ee-oh el-ə-jen-doh). *Hist.* A writ for choice of a verderer in the forest.
- virile share**. *Civil law.* An amount that an obligor owes jointly and severally with another. — Also termed *virile portion*.
- virilia** (və-ril-ee-ə or vi-ril-ee-ə), *n.pl.* [Latin] The male genitals.
- virtual adoption**. See *adoption by estoppel* under ADOPTION.
- virtual representation**. A party’s maintenance of an action on behalf of others with a similar interest, as a class representative does in a class action.
- virtual-representation doctrine**. The principle that a judgment may bind a person who is not a party to the litigation if one of the parties is so closely aligned with the nonparty’s interests that the nonparty has been adequately and effectively represented by the party in court. •

Under this doctrine, for instance, a judgment in a case naming only the husband as a party can be binding on his wife as well. See RES JUDICATA.

- virtute cuius** (vər-t[y]oo-tee k[y]oo-jəs), *adv.* [Latin] *Hist.* By virtue whereof. • This phrase began the clause in a pleading that attempted to justify an entry onto land by alleging that it was by virtue of an order from one entitled that the entry took place.
- virtute officii** (vər-t[y]oo-tee ə-fish-ee-i), *adv.* [Latin] *Hist.* By virtue of his (or her) office; by the authority invested in one as the incumbent of a particular office. • An officer acts *virtute officii* when carrying out some official authority as the incumbent of an office.
- vis** (vis). [Latin “power”] **1.** Any force, violence, or disturbance relating to a person or property. **2.** The force of law. • Thus *vim habere* (“to have force”) is to be legally valid. Pl. **vires**.
- visa** (vee-zə). An official indorsement made out on a passport, showing that it has been examined and that the bearer is permitted to proceed; a recognition by the country in which a passport-holder wishes to travel that the holder’s passport is valid. • A visa is generally required for the admission of aliens into the United States. 8 USCA §§ 1181, 1184. — Also termed (archaically) *visé* (vee-zay or vi-zay).
- vis ablativa** (vis ab-lə-ti-və), *n.* [Latin “ablative force”] *Civil law.* Force exerted in taking something away from another.
- vis absoluta** (vis ab-sə-loo-tə). Physical compulsion.
- “The difference is between compulsion of the will (*vis compulsiva*) which results in an act though not of free volition, and physical compulsion (*vis absoluta*) in which the unavoidable movement is no act at all.” Rollin M. Perkins & Ronald N. Boyce, *Criminal Law* 1054–55 (3d ed. 1982).
- vis armata** (vis ahr-may-tə), *n.* [Latin “armed force”] *Hist.* Force exerted by means of weapons. Cf. VIS INERMIS.
- vis-à-vis** (veez-ə-vee). [French “face to face”] **1.** *prep.* In relation to; opposite to <the creditor established a preferred position vis-à-vis the other creditors>. **2.** *adv.* Facing each other; opposite <that defense is possible in all intrafamilial legal relationships, esp. parent vis-à-vis child>.

vis clandestina (vis klan-des-ti-nə), *n.* [Latin "clandestine force"] *Hist.* Force furtively used, esp. at night.

vis compulsiva (vis kom-pəl-si-və), *n.* [Latin "compulsive force"] *Hist.* Force exerted to compel another to do something involuntarily; menacing force exerted by terror.

viscount (vi-kownt). **1.** The title of the fourth rank of European nobility. • In the British peerage, viscount is placed between the dignity of earl and baron. **2.** *Hist.* A sheriff.

viscountess (vi-kown-tis). The wife of a viscount. — Also termed *vice-comitissa*.

vis divina (vis di-vi-nə), *n.* *Civil law.* Divine or superhuman force; VIS MAJOR.

visé. See VISA.

vis expulsiva (vis eks-pəl-si-və), *n.* [Latin "expulsive force"] *Hist.* Force used to expel or dispossess another.

vis exturbativa (vis eks-tər-bə-ti-və), *n.* [Latin "eliminating force"] *Hist.* Force used to thrust out another, esp. when two claimants are contending for possession.

vis fluminis (vis floo-mə-nis), *n.* [Latin "the force of a river"] *Civil law.* The force exerted by a stream or river; waterpower.

visible, *adj.* **1.** Perceptible to the eye; discernible by sight. **2.** Clear, distinct, and conspicuous.

visible means of support. An apparent method of earning a livelihood. • Vagrancy statutes have long used this phrase to describe those who have no ostensible ability to support themselves.

vis illicita (vis il-lis-ə-tə). See VIS INJURIOSA.

vis impressa (vis im-pres-ə), *n.* [Latin "impressed force"] The original act of force from which an injury arises, as distinguished from the proximate (or immediate) force.

vis inermis (vis in-ər-mis), *n.* [Latin] Unarmed force. Cf. VIS ARMATA.

vis injuriosa (vis in-joor-ee-oh-sə), *n.* [Latin "injurious force"] *Hist.* Wrongful force. — Also termed *vis illicita*.

vis inquietativa (vis in-kwI-ə-tə-ti-və), *n.* [Latin "disquieting force"] *Civil law.* Force that prevents another from using his or her possession quietly and in peace.

visit, *n.* *Int'l law.* A naval officer's boarding an ostensibly neutral merchant vessel from another state to exercise the right of search. • This right is exercisable when suspicious circumstances exist, as when the vessel is suspected of involvement in piracy. — Also termed *visitation*. See RIGHT OF SEARCH.

visitation (viz-ə-tay-shən). **1.** Inspection; superintendence; direction; regulation. **2.** *Family law.* A noncustodial parent's period of access to a child. • Although the noncustodial parent is responsible for the care of the child during visits, visitation differs from custody because noncustodial parent and child do not live together as a family unit. **3.** The process of inquiring into and correcting corporate irregularities. **4.** VISIT.

visitation books. *Hist.* Books compiled by the heralds, when royal progresses were solemnly and regularly made into every part of the kingdom, to inquire into the state of families and to register whatever marriages and descents were verified to them upon oath.

visitation order. An order establishing the visiting times for a noncustodial parent with his or her children.

visitation right. **1.** *Family law.* A noncustodial parent's or grandparent's court-ordered privilege of spending time with a child or grandchild who is living with another person, usu. the custodial parent. **2.** *Int'l law.* A belligerent nation's right to go upon and search a neutral vessel to find out whether it is carrying contraband or is otherwise engaged in nonneutral service. • If it is doing either of these things, the searchers may seize the contraband and carry out an appropriate punishment. — Also termed *right of visitation*.

visitatorial (viz-ə-tə-tor-ee-əl), *adj.* See VISITORIAL.

visiting judge. See JUDGE.

visitor. **1.** A person who goes or comes to a particular person or place. **2.** A person appointed to visit, inspect, inquire into, and correct corporate irregularities.

visitorial (viz-ə-tor-ee-əl), *adj.* Of or relating to on-site inspection or supervision. — Also termed *visitatorial*.

visitor of manners. A regarnder's office in the forest.

vis laica (vis lay-ə-kə), *n.* [Latin "lay force"] *Hist.* An armed force used in holding possession of a church.

vis licita (vis lis-ə-tə), *n.* [Latin] Lawful force.

vis major (vis may-jər), *n.* [Latin "a superior force"] **1.** A greater or superior force; an irresistible force; FORCE MAJEURE. **2.** A loss that results immediately from a natural cause without human intervention and that could not have been prevented by the exercise of prudence, diligence, and care. — Also termed *vis divina*; *superior force*.

visne (veen or veen-ee). Neighborhood; at common law, the district from which juries were drawn; VICINAGE.

vis perturbativa (vis pər-tər-bə-ti-və), *n.* [Latin "perturbing force"] *Hist.* Force used between persons contending for possession of something.

vis proxima (vis prahk-sə-mə), *n.* [Latin "proximate force"] *Hist.* Immediate force.

vis simplex (vis sim-pleks), *n.* [Latin "simple force"] *Hist.* Mere force; sheer force.

VISTA (vis-tə). [fr. "Volunteers in Service to America"] A federal program established in 1964 to provide volunteers to help improve the living conditions of people in the poorest areas of the United States, its possessions, and Puerto Rico.

visus (vi-səs or vi-zəs), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* An inspection of a place, person, or thing. See VIEW (3), (4).

vital statistics. Public records — usu. relating to matters such as births, marriages, deaths, diseases, and the like — that are statutorily mandated to be kept by a city, state, or other governmental subdivision. ● On the admissibility of vital statistics, see Fed. R. Evid. 803(9).

vital term. See *fundamental term* under TERM (2).

vitiate (vish-ee-ayt), *vb.* **1.** To impair; to cause to have no force or effect <the new statute vitiates any common-law argument that the plaintiffs might have>. **2.** To make void or voidable; to invalidate either completely or in part <fraud vitiates a contract>. **3.** To corrupt morally <Mr. Lawrence complains that his children were vitiated by their governess>. — **vitiation**, *n.* — **vitiator**, *n.*

vitiligate (vit-ə-lit-ə-gayt), *vb.* [fr. Latin *vitiligare* "to quarrel disgracefully"] *Archaic.* To litigate merely from quarrelsome motives; to carry on a lawsuit in an unduly contentious, wrangling way. — **vitiligation**, *n.* — **vitiligious** (vit-ə-li-tij-əs), *adj.*

vitious intromission. See INTROMISSION.

vitium clerici (vish-ee-əm kler-ə-si). [Latin] See *clerical error* under ERROR.

vitium scriptoris (vish-ee-əm skrip-tor-is), *n.* [Latin "the mistake of a scribe"] *Hist.* A clerical error in writing.

vitricus (vi-trə-kəs), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* A stepfather.

viva aqua (vi-və ak-wə), *n.* [Latin "living water"] *Hist.* Running water; water that comes from a spring or fountain.

viva pecunia (vi-və pi-kyoo-nee-ə), *n.* [Latin "living money"] *Hist.* Cattle, which obtained this name during the Saxon period, when they were received as money, usu. at regulated prices.

viva voce (vi-və voh-see also vee-və), *adv.* [Law Latin "with living voice"] By word of mouth; orally. ● When referring to votes, the term signifies voting by speech outcry as opposed to voting by a ballot. When referring to the examination of witnesses, the term is contrasted with answering written questions or providing evidence by affidavit.

vivum vadium (vi-vəm vay-dee-əm). See *vadium vivum* under VADIUM.

viz. (viz). *abbr.* [Latin *videlicet*] Namely; that is to say <the defendant engaged in fraudulent activities, viz., misrepresenting his gross income, misrepresenting the value of his assets, and forging his wife's signature>.

vocabula artis (voh-kab-yə-lə ahr-tis), *n.* [Latin] Words of art. See TERM OF ART.

vocare ad curiam (voh-kair-ee ad kyoor-ee-əm), *vb.* [Latin] To summon to court.

vocatio in jus (voh-kay-shee-oh in jəs), *n.* [Latin] *Roman law.* A plaintiff's oral summoning of a defendant to go before a magistrate. • The *vocatio in jus* occurred when the plaintiff would summon the defendant in formal words to accompany the plaintiff.

vocation. A person's regular calling or business; one's occupation or profession.

vociferatio (voh-sif-ə-ray-shee-oh), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* An outcry; HUE AND CRY.

voco (voh-koh). [Latin "I call"] *Hist.* I summon; I vouch. See VOCATIO IN JUS.

Voconian law (və-koh-nee-in). See LEX VOCONIA.

voice exemplar. A sample of a person's voice used for the purpose of comparing it with a recorded voice to determine whether the speaker is the same person. • Although voiceprint identification was formerly inadmissible, the trend in recent years has been toward admissibility. See Fed. R. Evid. 901. Cf. VOICEPRINT.

voiceprint. A distinctive pattern of curved lines and whorls that are made by a machine that measures human vocal sounds for the purpose of identifying an individual speaker. • Like fingerprints, voiceprints are thought to be unique to each person.

void, adj. 1. Of no legal effect; null. • The distinction between *void* and *voidable* is often of great practical importance. Whenever technical accuracy is required, *void* can be properly applied only to those provisions that are of no effect whatsoever — those that are an absolute nullity. — **void, avoid, vb.** — **voidness, n.**

facially void. (Of an instrument) patently void upon an inspection of the contents. — Also termed *void on its face*.

void ab initio (ab i-nish-ee-oh). Null from the beginning, as from the first moment when a contract is entered into. • A contract is void ab initio if it seriously offends law or public policy, in contrast to a contract that is merely voidable at the election of one party to the contract.

void for vagueness. 1. (Of a deed or other instrument affecting property) having such an insufficient property description as to be unenforceable. 2. (Of a penal statute) establishing a requirement or punishment without specifying what is required or what conduct is punishable, and therefore void because violative of due process. — Also termed *void for indefiniteness*.

2. VOIDABLE. • Although sense 1 above is the strict meaning of *void*, the word is often used and construed as bearing the more liberal meaning of "voidable."

voidable, adj. Valid until annulled; esp., (of a contract) capable of being affirmed or rejected at the option of one of the parties. • This term describes a valid act that may be voided rather than an invalid act that may be ratified. — **voidability, n.**

"Most of the disputed questions in the law of infancy turn upon the legal meaning of the word 'voidable' as applied to an infant's acts. The natural meaning of the word imports a valid act which may be avoided, rather than an invalid act which may be confirmed, and the weight of authority as well as reason points in the same direction. Certainly, so far as executed transfers of property are concerned the authority of the decisions clearly supports this view." 1 Samuel Williston, *The Law Governing Sales of Goods* § 12, at 28 (3d ed. 1948).

"The promise of an infant surety is voidable as distinguished from void. The infant may expressly disaffirm or assert the defense of infancy when sued at any time before the expiration of a reasonable time after majority." Laurence P. Simpson, *Handbook on the Law of Suretyship* 82 (1950).

voidable agreement. See *voidable contract* under CONTRACT.

voidable contract. See CONTRACT.

voidable judgment. See JUDGMENT.

voidable marriage. See MARRIAGE (1).

voidable preference. See PREFERENTIAL TRANSFER.

voidable promise. See PROMISE.

voidable transfer. See PREFERENTIAL TRANSFER.

void agreement. See *void contract* under CONTRACT.

voidance, n. The act of annulling, canceling, or making void. — Also termed *avoidance*.

void contract. See CONTRACT.

void for indefiniteness. See *void for vagueness* under VOID.

void for vagueness. See VOID.

void-for-vagueness doctrine. See VAGUENESS DOCTRINE; *void for vagueness* under VOID.

void judgment. See JUDGMENT.

void legacy. See LEGACY.

void marriage. See MARRIAGE (1).

void on its face. See *facially void* under VOID.

void process. See PROCESS.

voir dire (vwahr deer *also* vor deer *or* vor dir), *n.* [Law French “to speak the truth”] **1.** A preliminary examination of a prospective juror by a judge or lawyer to decide whether the prospect is qualified and suitable to serve on a jury. **2.** A preliminary examination to test the competence of a witness or evidence. **3.** *Hist.* An oath administered to a witness requiring that witness to answer truthfully in response to questions. — Also spelled *voire dire*. — Also termed *voir dire exam*; *examination on the voir dire*. — **voir dire**, *vb.*

voiture (vwah-t[y]oor), *n.* Carriage; transportation by carriage.

volatile stock. See STOCK.

volatility. In securities markets, the quality of having sudden and extreme price changes.

volens (voh-lenz), *adj.* [Latin] Willing. See NO-LENS VOLENS.

volenti non fit injuria (voh-len-ti non fit in-joor-ee-ə). [Law Latin “a person is not wronged by that to which he or she consents”] The principle that a person who knowingly and voluntarily risks danger cannot recover for any resulting injury. • This is the type of affirmative defense that must be pleaded under Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(c). — Often shortened to *volenti*. See ASSUMPTION OF THE RISK.

volition (və-lish-ən *or* voh-), *n.* **1.** The ability to make a choice or determine something. **2.** The act of making a choice or determining some-

thing. **3.** The choice or determination that someone makes. — **volitional**, *adj.*

volitional test. See IRRESISTIBLE-IMPULSE TEST.

Volstead Act (vol-sted). A federal statute enacted in 1919 to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or transportation of liquor. • Sponsored by Andrew Joseph Volstead of Minnesota, a famous Prohibitionist, the statute was passed under the 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. When the 21st Amendment repealed the 18th Amendment in 1933, the Volstead Act was voided.

volume discount. See DISCOUNT.

volumen (vol-yoo-mən), *n.* [Latin “a rolled-up thing”] *Civil law.* A volume.

volumus (vol-ə-məs), *vb.* [Latin] *Hist.* We will; it is our will. • This was the first word of a clause in royal writs of protection and letters patent. It uses the royal *we* — the plural first person by which monarchs have traditionally spoken.

voluntarily, *adv.* Intentionally; without coercion.

voluntarius daemon (vol-ən-tair-ee-əs dee-mən), *n.* [Law Latin “voluntary madman”] *Hist.* A drunkard; one who has voluntarily contracted madness by intoxication.

voluntary, *adj.* **1.** Done by design or intention <voluntary act>. **2.** Unconstrained by interference; not impelled by outside influence <voluntary statement>. **3.** Without valuable consideration; gratuitous <voluntary gift>. **4.** Having merely nominal consideration <voluntary deed>. — **voluntariness**, *n.*

voluntary abandonment. See ABANDONMENT (2).

voluntary appearance. See APPEARANCE.

voluntary arbitration. See ARBITRATION.

voluntary assignment. See *general assignment* under ASSIGNMENT.

voluntary association. See ASSOCIATION (3).

voluntary bankruptcy. See BANKRUPTCY.

voluntary bar. See BAR.

voluntary bond. See BOND (3).

voluntary conveyance. See CONVEYANCE.

voluntary courtesy. An act of kindness performed by one person toward another, from the free will of the doer, without any previous request or promise of reward made by the person who is the object of the act. • No promise of remuneration arises from such an act.

voluntary deposit. See DEPOSIT (6).

voluntary discontinuance. See NONSUIT.

voluntary dismissal. See DISMISSAL (1).

voluntary dissolution. See DISSOLUTION.

voluntary escape. See ESCAPE (3).

voluntary euthanasia. See EUTHANASIA.

voluntary exposure to unnecessary danger. An intentional act that, from the standpoint of a reasonable person, gives rise to an undue risk of harm. • The phrase implies a conscious, deliberate exposure of which one is consciously willing to take the risk.

voluntary ignorance. Willful obliviousness; an unknowing or unaware state resulting from the neglect to take reasonable steps to acquire important knowledge.

voluntary intoxication. See INTOXICATION.

voluntary jurisdiction. See JURISDICTION.

voluntary lien. See LIEN.

voluntary manslaughter. See MANSLAUGHTER.

voluntary petition. See PETITION.

voluntary pilot. *Maritime law.* A ship pilot who controls a ship with the permission of the vessel's owner. • The vessel's owner is personally liable for damage resulting from a collision caused by a voluntary pilot. Cf. COMPULSORY PILOT.

"If a vessel is in the hands of a harbor pilot at the time of the collision, the question arises whether the fault of the pilot is imputed to the vessel owner or operator.

American law draws an unwarranted distinction between the 'voluntary pilot,' who is taken on voluntarily, and the 'compulsory pilot,' who is mandated by a statute or local regulation. The voluntary pilot is considered to be the same as any crew member, and his fault is fully attributable to the vessel owner. A compulsory pilot's fault, however, cannot be imputed to the shipowner personally; the doctrine of *respondet superior* does not apply. At most, the vessel is liable *in rem* since the compulsory pilot's negligence is attributable to the ship. The distinction makes little sense in that it throws the loss upon potentially innocent parties and ignores the fact that the vessel owner commonly carries insurance against this liability. In any collision case, therefore, care should be taken to assert a maritime lien and to sue the vessel *in rem* if a compulsory pilot may be involved." Thomas J. Schoenbaum, *Admiralty and Maritime Law* § 13-1, at 450-51 (1987).

voluntary respite. See RESPITE.

voluntary sale. See SALE.

voluntary search. See SEARCH.

voluntary settlement. See SETTLEMENT.

voluntary statement. See STATEMENT.

voluntary stranding. See STRANDING.

voluntary surety. See SURETY.

voluntary suretyship. See SURETYSHIP.

voluntary trust. See TRUST.

voluntary waste. See WASTE (1).

voluntas (və-lən-tas), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* **1.** Volition, purpose, or intention; a feeling or impulse that prompts the commission of an act. **2.** A will by which a testator plans to dispose of an estate; WILL.

volunteer. **1.** A voluntary actor or agent in a transaction; esp., a person who, without an employer's assent and without any justification from legitimate personal interest, helps an employee in the performance of the employer's business. **2.** The grantee in a voluntary conveyance; a person to whom a conveyance is made without any valuable consideration. See *voluntary conveyance* under CONVEYANCE. **3.** *Military law.* A person who enters military service voluntarily and is then subject to the same rules as other soldiers. Cf. DRAFT (2).

Volunteers in Service to America. See VISTA.

vote, *n.* **1.** The expression of one's preference or opinion by ballot, show of hands, or other type of communication <the Republican candidate received more votes than the Democratic candidate>. **2.** The total number of votes cast in an election <the incumbent received 60% of the vote>. **3.** The act of voting, usu. by a legislative body <the Senate postponed the vote on the gun-control bill>. — **vote**, *vb.*

vote dilution. See DILUTION (3).

vote of no confidence. See NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE.

voter. **1.** A person who engages in the act of voting. **2.** A person who has the qualifications necessary for voting. — Also termed (in sense 2) *legal voter*.

voting. The casting of votes for the purpose of deciding an issue.

absentee voting. Participation in an election by a qualified voter who is unable to appear at the polls on election day; the practice of allowing voters to participate in this way.

class voting. A method of shareholder voting by which different classes of shares vote separately on fundamental corporate changes that affect the rights and privileges of that class. — Also termed *voting by class*; *voting by voting group*.

cumulative voting. A system for electing corporate directors whereby a shareholder may multiply his or her number of shares by the number of open directorships and cast the total for a single candidate or a select few candidates. • Cumulative voting enhances the ability of minority shareholders to elect at least one director.

majority voting. A system for electing corporate directors whereby each shareholder is allowed one vote for each director, who can win with a simple majority.

noncumulative voting. A corporate voting system in which a shareholder is limited in board elections to voting no more than the number of shares he or she owns for a single candidate. • The result is that a majority shareholder will elect the entire board of directors. — Also termed *straight voting*.

voting by class. See *class voting*.

voting by voting group. See *class voting*.

voting agreement. See POOLING AGREEMENT.

voting by class. See *class voting* under VOTING.

voting by voting group. See *class voting* under VOTING.

voting group. **1.** A classification of shareholders by the type of stock held for voting on corporate matters. **2.** Collectively, the shareholders falling within such a classification.

Voting Rights Act. The federal law that guarantees a citizen's right to vote, without discrimination based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude. • The U.S. Attorney General is authorized to bring suit for preventive relief to protect this right. 42 USCA §§ 1971-1974.

voting security. See *voting stock* under STOCK.

voting stock. See STOCK.

voting-stock rights. A stockholder's right to vote stock in the affairs of the company. • Most commonly, holders of common stock have one vote for each share. Holders of preferred stock usu. have the right to vote when preferred dividends are in default for a specified period.

voting trust. See TRUST.

voting-trust certificate. A certificate issued by a voting trustee to the beneficial holders of shares held by the voting trust. • A voting-trust certificate may be as readily transferable as the underlying shares; it carries with it all the incidents of ownership except the power to vote. See *voting trust* under TRUST.

votum (voh-təm), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* A vow; a promise. See *dies votorum* under DIES.

vouch, *vb.* **1.** To answer for (another); to personally assure <the suspect's mother vouched for him>. **2.** To call upon, rely on, or cite as authority; to substantiate with evidence <counsel vouched the mathematical formula for determining the statistical probability>. **3.** *Hist.* To call into court to warrant and defend, usu. in a fine and recovery. See FINE (1). **4.** *Hist.* To authenticate (a claim, etc.) by vouchers.

vouchee (vow-chee), *n.* *Hist.* **1.** A person vouched into court; one who has been vouched over. See VOUCH OVER. **2.** A person cited as authority in support of some fact.

voucher, *n.* **1.** Confirmation of the payment or discharge of a debt; a receipt. **2.** A written or

printed authorization to disburse money. **3.** *Hist.* A person who calls on another person (the vouchee) as a witness, esp. in support of a warranty of title. **4.** *Hist.* The tenant in a writ of right.

voucher to warranty. *Hist.* The calling into court of a person who has warranted lands, by the person warranted, to come and defend a lawsuit.

vouching-in. **1.** At common law, a procedural device by which a defendant may give notice of suit to a third party who is liable over to the defendant on the subject-matter of the suit, so that the third party will be bound by the court's decision. • Although this device has been largely replaced by third-party practice, it still remains marginally available under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *Humble Oil & Refining Co. v. Philadelphia Ship Maintenance Co.*, 444 F.2d 727, 735 (3d Cir. 1971). **2.** The invitation of a person who is liable to a defendant in a lawsuit to intervene and defend so that, if the invitation is denied and the defendant later sues the person invited, the latter is bound by any determination of fact common to the two lawsuits. See UCC § 2-607. **3.** IMPLEADER.

vouch over, *vb.* To cite (a person) into court in one's stead.

voyage. *Maritime law.* The passing of a vessel by sea from one place, port, or country to another. • Courts generally hold that the term includes the entire enterprise, not just the route.

foreign voyage. A voyage to a port or place within the territory of a foreign nation. • If the voyage is from one port in a foreign country to another port in the same country, it is considered a foreign voyage.

freighting voyage. A voyage that involves a vessel's transporting cargo between terminal points.

trading voyage. A voyage that contemplates a vessel's touching and stopping at various ports to traffic in, buy and sell, or exchange commodities on the owners' and shippers' account.

voyage charter. See CHARTER (4).

voyage insurance. See INSURANCE.

voyage policy. See INSURANCE POLICY.

voyeur (*voy-yər* also *vwah-yər*), *n.* A person who observes something without participating; esp., one who gains pleasure by secretly observing another's sexual acts.

voyeurism. Gratification derived from observing the sexual organs or acts of others, usu. secretly. — **voyeuristic,** *adj.*

vs. *abbr.* VERSUS.

vulgaris purgatio (*vəl-gair-is pər-gay-shee-oh*), *n.* [Law Latin] See ORDEAL (1).

vulgar purgation. See PURGATION.

vulgar substitution. See SUBSTITUTION (3).

vulgo concepti (*vəl-goh kən-sep-ti*), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* Illegitimate children; bastards.

vulgo quaesiti (*vəl-goh kwi-si-ti*), *n.* [Latin] *Hist.* Spurious children; the offspring of promiscuity, so that the true fathers are unknowable.

vulture fund. See MUTUAL FUND.