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Legal Writing In Plain English

WRITING IN PLAIN ENGLISH - Columbia Law School

Writing in plain English and legal writing have the same goal: communicating complex ideas in a digestible and manageable form As Justice Clarence Thomas once said, the “beauty is not to write a five cent idea in a ten dollar sentence” but rather

The A to Z guide to legal phrases - Plain English Campaign

The language used in law is changing Many lawyers are now adopting a plain English style But there are still legal phrases that baffle non-lawyers This guide is intended to help in two ways: • it should help non-lawyers understand legal phrases; and • it should give lawyers ideas for ...

THE PLAIN ENGLISH MOVEMENT - Linguistics

The premise behind the plain English movement is that legal documents ought to be plainer--and more comprehensible --to the average person It's probably fair to say that the modern movement began in the 1970s But people have objected to the obscurity of lawyer's language for many centuries

Judges on Effective Writing: The Importance of Plain Language

the author of many books on writing, including Legal Writing in Plain English(2001) and The Elements of Legal Style(2d ed 2002) He is also editor in chief of all current editions of Black's Law Dictionary He teaches at Southern Methodist Uni-versity School of Law FOOTNOTES 1 Oral remark frequently attributed to Justice Holmes 2

GUIDE TO WRITING IN PLAIN LANGUAGE - Royal Children's Hospital

Writing Tips V20161 Page 1 of 4 GUIDE TO WRITING IN PLAIN LANGUAGE WHAT IS LITERACY? The definition of 'literacy' has changed over time Traditionally, literacy was the ability to read and write a ...

Legal Writing Guide - adelaide.edu.au

Legal Writing Guide The use of English at an appropriate academic standard is The Complete Plain Words is an excellent reference book for questions of English usage, and the classic work is Fowler's Modern English Usage Conversational slang should not be

Plain English: A Charter for Clear Writing@

Myth: Plain English is impossible because legal writing includes so many terms of art Legal writing and analysis may in-deed involve terms of art, such as plaintiff and hearsay Legitimate terms of art convey in a word or two a set-tled, circumscribed meaning But how many terms of ...

LEGAL WRITING IN PLAIN ENGLISH A TEXT WITH EXERCISES ...

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Federal Plain Language Guidelines

Federal Plain Language Guidelines, March 2011, Rev 1, May 2011 3 b Address separate audiences separately An important part of writing for your audience is addressing separate audiences separately Many documents address more than one audience Documents that mix material intended for different audiences may confuse readers

A brief guide to better legal writing skills

A brief guide to better legal writing skills Peter Hungerford-Welch City Law School, writing of the English language (d) Before starting to write a document, make sure that you know exactly what you want to say The point is made in The Complete Plain Words (Sir Ernest Gowers) that 'loose thinking is bound to produce loose writing

REVISING, EDITING, AND PROOFREADING YOUR WORK I ...

WRITING RESOURCES 1 Legal Writing in Plain English, Bryan Garner 2 Point Made: How to Write Like the Nation's Top Advocates, Ross Guberman 3 Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English, Patricia O'Conner 4 Making Your Case: ...

Legalese versus plain language - SAS-Space

Legalese versus plain language by Peter Butt Legal English has traditionally been a special variety of English Mysterious in form and expression, it is larded with law-Latin and Norman-French, heavily dependent on the past, and unashamedly archaic Antiquated words flourish words such ...

how to write in plain English

So what's plain English? First let's say what plain English isn't and destroy some of the myths about it • It's not 'cat sat on the mat' or 'Janet and John' writing Almost anything – from leaflets and letters to legal documents – can be written in plain English without being patronising or oversimplified

Plain English for Lawyers - cap-press.com

Chapter 1 Why Plain English? 3 Chapter 2 Omit Surplus Words 7 How to Spot Bad Construction 7 Avoid Compound Constructions 11 Avoid Word-Wasting Idioms 13 Focus on the Actor, the Action, and the Object 15 Do Not Use Redundant Legal Phrases 17 Chapter 3 Use Base Verbs, Not Nominalizations 23 Chapter 4 Prefer the Active Voice 27

English Style Guide - European Commission

on how to improve writing style is given in *The Plain English Guide* by Martin Cutts (Oxford University Press, 1999) and *Style: Toward Clarity and Grace* by Joseph M Williams (University of Chicago Press, 1995), and the European Commission's own *How to write clearly*, all of which encourage the use

New York's Plain English Law - Fordham University

is the first state to pass legislation requiring plain language in con-sumer transactions⁷ Originally passed in 1977,¹ New York's Plain English Law was amended in 1978,¹ and became effective November 1, 1978¹" This Note will examine New York's Plain English Law, 1

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A Defense of Legal Writing - Penn Law: Legal Scholarship ...

ESSAY A DEFENSE OF LEGAL WRITING RICHARD HYLAND^t Legal writing is on the run Lawyers have long attempted, without much success, to reform it¹ And now that scholars too have discovered that lawyers write badly,² and scientists have proven that most people t Lawyer, Covington & Burling AB 1970, Harvard University; JD 1980, Uni-

How 2 Write Good - Indiana University Maurer School of Law

¹Gary T Schwartz Professor of Law, UCLA Law School^{Prof Volokh} had the idea for this guide and wrote the material included as groups 1, 2 and 5 in part II ²Professor of Law, Indiana University Maurer School of Law - Bloomington

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NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD NLRB STYLE MANUAL A Guide for Legal Writing in Plain English For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office