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Spanish-English Dictionary Of Law And Business, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

2nd edition of bestselling Spanish to English dictionary of legal and business terminology from all 20 Spanish-speaking countries, over twice the size of the first edition. Contains the latest legal and financial terms in Spanish and offers explanations of many of them. Includes examples of usage, area of law, countries where the term is used, and citations to laws and regulations. Note that the dictionary is Spanish to English only (there is no English to Spanish section).

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Customer Reviews

Thomas West founded Intermark Language Services in 1995 after practicing law for five years with a large Atlanta law firm. Intermark recently celebrated its 17th year in business and is widely recognized as the go-to firm for legal and financial translations. West received his B.A. degree in French and English from the University of Mississippi summa cum laude and his M.A. in German from Vanderbilt University, where he was a Harold Stirling Vanderbilt fellow. He earned his J.D. at the University of Virginia School of Law and was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1990. From 2001 to 2003, he served as president of the 10,000-member American Translators Association in Washington DC, the translation industry's main trade association, and has conducted seminars on legal translation throughout Europe and Latin America. West speaks eight languages and is ATA certified for translation from French, Spanish and German into English. He has also published a *Diccionario de Siglas y Abreviaturas*.

I own a language company and work as a full-time professional linguist and have translated legal

texts from Spanish to English for many years. The need for a dependable, up-to-date resource for the huge variations in legal terminology extant in Latin America and Spain is very pressing for both the accuracy of translations such as what I do and for members of the legal profession who must deal with the legal systems of the nineteen Spanish-speaking countries of the world. The breadth and inclusiveness of this dictionary is extraordinary. It is totally current, having been just released in the summer of 2012, taking into account the many changes to legal codes all over the Spanish-speaking world since the year 2000. Three things differentiate this book from other dictionaries I have encountered. First is its rich content. The terms are presented in their most common usages but goes a step beyond to include many far less common phrases. It becomes clear how the nuances change from one phrase to the other and how important it is to see these words in actual use rather than simply listing them in the typical dictionary setting. Second is its wonderful specification of which countries use which terms. Argentina's legal terms may be quite different from Ecuador's or Mexico's, and the words themselves may have very different meanings. Accidentally applying the meaning from one country to the text from another can spell trouble if one is not careful. And third, the author takes the time to explain in plain English what some of these terms and phrases mean, especially where the Spanish legal system differs from the one in the U.S. or Britain, and the translator or legal professional must be acutely aware of these differences. If I had one criticism to make, it is that it is unavailable in electronic form, at least at this time. Having an online or computerized format to access at any time and in any place would be a huge boon. But until then, I will take the book gladly. I can honestly say that this is one of the best reference investments I have ever made. Anyone who deals with Spanish language legal terms should absolutely own a copy of this exceptional resource. It is a gem of a book.

This would be amazing if it were a two way dictionary like I thought it would be, but it is not. It is only from English into Spanish. You would need to already know the word in Spanish in order to find it. I ended up sending it back because the likelihood of me ever using it, is very slim. However, I can see how it would be an excellent book for translators to have.

Just what we've been waiting for! Translators of legal and business documents from Spanish into US English have depended on the first edition of Mr. West's dictionary since 1999, when his dictionary became our go-to-first reference. Mr. West, lexicographer and attorney, is an active member of the American Translators Association (ex-president, in fact) and presents many educational seminars at the annual conference and as webinars. Now we have a stand-alone legal

reference. The following features are the same or better in the new edition: Spanish terms not found in other (legal) dictionaries (This was the sole purpose of the first edition.) English translations specific to the US legal system and usage Identification of country of origin/use (addition of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic) Explanations of terms Latin legal terms Legal bibliography Differences between the two editions: Purpose: Not just terms not found elsewhere, but comprehensiveness Synonyms given, with distinctions Area of law indicated References to specific articles of statutes and codes Updated information on new laws and names of jurisdictions More terms: estimated 18,000 vs 13,000 More pages: 515 vs 319 Smaller font size Paperback vs hard-cover Abbreviations included in the alphabetized entries vs a separate list No more English to Spanish section No more list of comma vs decimal countries A comparison of an entry that appears in both editions:

1. First edition *gastos judiciales* court costs
2. Second edition *gastos judiciales* court costs (SYN) *litis expensas* Uru, *costas*, *costas judiciales*, *costas procesales*, *gastos procesales*, *gastos causados* [Note the addition of synonyms, with the country of use for one of them indicated in italics. Useful information for translators into Spanish.]

Example of an entry not in the first edition, the legal meaning of a standard term: **arrepentirse** [in bold] to withdraw [English translation in smaller font, bold and italics] (from a transaction) [context indicated in parentheses and italics] [Example of use in context with translation] (SYN) **retractarse** [In bold, synonym(s) given] An example of explanation by way of definition, given after the translation: *gerente* manager (DEF) In countries where the board of directors is called the "directorio" (Arg, Bol, Chi, Par, Per and Uru) or the "junta directiva" (Col, Cos, Nic, Pan, Sal, Ven), the Spanish word "director" means "director" in the sense of "member of the board of directors." Managers tend to be called "gerentes" in these countries. In countries where the board of directors is called "consejo de administración" (Esp, Mex), the Spanish word "director" means "manager," and directors in the sense of board members are called "consejeros" (Mex) or "administradores" (Esp). This same entry serves to illustrate the fine distinctions indicated for usage in the different countries. The distinctions among different types of contracts are most helpful. See *contrato de mediación*, *contrato gratuito* and *contrato unilateral*, for examples. There was one term I didn't find in either edition, perhaps because it can be found in a general dictionary such as Harper Collin's *Lexibase* (2002): *atestación*, meaning attestation or deposition. From a lexicographical point of view, the formatting of both editions is outstanding for clarity and consistency, a difficult task for the second edition, given the smaller print required to keep the dictionary within a reasonable size. The dictionary was carefully proofread. The only typo I found was in the Preface on page 5: "...repetition of terms in mandatory in legal English..." instead of "...repetition of terms is mandatory in legal English..." Bottom line: Congratulations on all counts to

Mr. West! If you are a translator of legal documents from Spanish to English, you must have this dictionary. And, good news! It costs only \$50 from .

I have been using this dictionary for over a year now and find it extremely useful. I can even guess when I'm looking for a translation of an English term, because alas, the dictionary is still only one-way Spanish to English. The examples are extremely useful in sorting out the term that is needed. I have bought the dictionary to help fledgling translators. In fact, we would probably like the English to Spanish version to be in another book. The size of this book is very handy and it has held up under constant use. For further comment, see our colleague Moskowitz's review. He is an expert on comparative Latin American Spanish, whose work has been very helpful.

Like any other bilingual legal dictionary, Thomas West's work is not perfect because there are many terms that you will not find when looking them up. On the other hand, it gives you specific translations for what you are looking for (which is not the case of other dictionaries) and sometimes it even gives you specific examples in which that word has a different translation because of the context; you may also find explanations of certain legal terms. Yet another bad point is that it does not provide an English-Spanish side. All in all it is a pretty good dictionary and it is worth buying it; it has helped me in several occasions.

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