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BBC Radio 4 podcasts

[sth = something; sm = somebody]

### **'Demystifying the language of the courtroom'**

to get summons

legit or stolen

to attend the court

a solemn officer

sth is within your vocabulary

be befuddled by sth/ vocabulary

the Transparency project

have powers to intervene in people's lives

be subjected to the process

a number of reasons for sm

part of it is ...

to sit at the back of the court

be brought to court

in times of extreme emotional stress

a personal crisis

language is full of unfamiliarity

your first encounter with sth

a walk of life

to use acronyms

abbreviations

to become normalised

an urge for transparency

a long history of attempted legislation

I won't bore you with sth  
to become more pressing and audible  
information comes out of family courts  
to sit in private  
to air sm's grievances  
to publish more judgments  
to get a grip on sth  
sm is sitting in judgement (general language meaning)  
to deliver a decision  
the reasoning behind the decision  
the decision stands  
the rationale behind sth  
the piece of evidence  
to apply the law  
to intervene  
be questioned in a witness box  
the question is unintelligible  
full of jargon  
to rephrase the question  
to make submissions to sm/ the judge  
to buy into the process  
to drop the jargon  
to work to a book of guidelines  
to disapprove of the use of Latin  
to come to court ex parte = without another party  
an ex parte hearing  
an inter parte hearing

to be stuffy  
to carry abstract concepts  
clarity and simplistic language  
the economy of language  
to command respect for sth  
to preserve mystique  
to decode the language  
to convey a message  
to go back to basics  
the change of administration  
baggy  
the spelling is massively lagging behind  
to cease to be as spoken language  
a mother tongue  
to bring sth into play  
the spoken variant  
to aid and abet  
aiding and abetting  
to plead in court  
a judge  
to deem = to judge  
a doom = a sentence  
demster  
justice = iusticia  
fairness  
rightwiseness  
righteousness

a wrong

to act as an advocate

a pursuer = an appellant, a claimant

a legal framework

to break down into

solicitors and barristers

advocates

to do the advocacy

be instructed to go to court

to conduct litigation

discreet compartments

a bar

a barrister

to instigate matters

to transact matters

a court

a courtyard

a cohort of soldiers

a patch of ground

the rule of thumb is ...

to address a judge

to refer to sm

tiers of judges

the bottom rank

magistrates

district judges

circuit judges

wink and nudge  
to pass without notice  
my instructions are ...  
to make a point of sth  
a euphemism  
be understated  
overblown and emotive language  
a gentle cue  
with respect  
with the greatest of respect  
to do jury service  
to begin sm's account = description  
"I would suggest to you ..."  
in actual fact  
to try sth out  
to trip over sth  
to employ a technique  
"I put it to you ..."  
a vulnerable witness  
a complainant  
mental health / cognitive difficulties  
not to cause sm distress  
to give your best account  
suggestible  
an authority figure  
body language  
to turn back

to pick sth up

to leave sm unattended in court

to leave the court backwards

to turn around / your back on sm

my learned friend

a term of respect

by convention

to make a point

a peer

Gillick competent

to derive from

a McKenzie friend

a shorthand

to sit quietly by the side of sm

for moral support