# Preface

With more than 30 years of experience in developing law & language programs for lawyers, law students, legal practitioners and law & language afficionados, with a special focus on the top end of these programs, we came to the conclusion that we also needed to develop an instrument to satisfy the needs of beginners and the uninitiated, and of those who have never benefited from a systematic introduction to the Anglo-American legal systems or the language used to describe it.

We therefore decided to use our existing tools, textbooks and teaching materials to pick the 1,000 most important Legal English terms as they are used by American and English lawyers (both academics and practitioners) in their daily professional lives. We screened the introductory texts of the 19 fields of law we cover in our two-volume textbooks *The Practitioners' Guide to Applied Comparative Law and Language* (© LexisNexis and CH Beck 2021) for the approximately 50 most important terms and concepts per legal field and compared our findings with existing legal glossaries and linguistic corpora in order to identify what we consider the **quintessential Legal English terminology that every lawyer or legal language enthusiast should know**.

Based on this selection we then provide a short and easy-to-grasp definition, followed by further explanation, background information and/or an illustrative example of how the term can be used in a real-life scenario. This way, every reader can easily develop a sound understanding of these terms, the underlying concepts and their most common usage as we provide explanations targeted at **legal language in action**. While all of this is done with a focus on *Anglo-American Legal English* (indicating variations of British Legal English and American Legal English), we will soon also offer **bilingual editions** for *Legal German* (including its variation of Legal German as used in Austria) as well as for *Legal French*. Further language editions will follow.

The *Translex 1,000* is an indispensable tool to acquire a solid understanding of the Anglo-American Legal System and of Anglo-American Legal English, the specific language used to describe and express the basic notions and concepts of the Anglo-American Legal world. It serves as the key to understanding the mechanics of the Anglo-American Legal Systems and is quite simply a door-opener for law students, practicing lawyers, legal language service providers, law & language afficionados, or even those who just enjoy watching legal documentaries, soaps or series.

In addition to this book, readers or students may also be interested in finding out about the complementary online course program offered via *Lawstar*, which provides a playful approach to the contents of the book with plenty of exercises, self-test units and even an opportunity to obtain a **certificate** evidencing one's mastery of the legal terminology.

For access to our online learning and self-testing tool please visit www.lawstar.at.

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