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## Book Review of A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage

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577. Garner, Bryan A.. **A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage**. 2d ed. New York, Oxford University Press, 1995. 953p. \$65.00. ISBN 0-19-507769-5.

The 2d edition of *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* expands considerably on the 1st edition (see ARBA 88, entry 564) by including more terms and by providing illustrative quotations—and citations to them—from court decisions, books, articles, and other sources. Much more than a legal dictionary—of which there are literally dozens to choose from—Garner defines thousands of law-related words and phrases, but also counsels his readers on matters of style; grammar and usage; legal lexicology and special conventions; word formation, inflection, spelling, and pronunciation; and punctuation and typography.

In what other legal dictionary can one find an exposition on the use of the dash, of which Garner describes two types? First is the em dash—represented by two hyphens to “enclose a parenthetical remark or to mark the ending and the resumption of a statement by an interlocutor”—that Garner calls the second-most underused mark of punctuation in legal writing. The second is the single-hyphen en dash, which usually substitutes for the word *to*.

The 1st edition was called “the best legal dictionary now available in the English language” and “a work of learning, taste, care, and wit.” The 2d edition is that and more. There exists no reason to doubt Charles Alan Wright’s statement that Garner “has established himself as the world’s leading authority on the language of the law.” *A Dictionary of Modern Legal Usage* is a treasure to have and a delight to read. Much different from the other legal dictionaries on the market, it should appear on the shelves of every law library.—**James S. Heller**