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Big Law Jargon: A Primer

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June 29, 2017



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Like the entertainment industry and the trade magazine *Variety*, with its [slanguage](#), the legal media and business of law have their own language. It's a language that can be confusing to outsiders, and even to law students and lawyers who have never practiced at a large firm. In our latest video essay, Big Law Business decodes the special language of big law with a short paragraph that we wrote to utilize 14 terms with special meanings. The paragraph is merely an example, any resemblance to actual law firms, or actual events is purely coincidental.

After the **tie-up** between the **magic circle** and **Am Law 100** firms was announced, the **headhunters** contacted the firm's **rainmakers** with big **books of business**. Some **lateraled**, one started a **boutique**, and a **white shoe firm** looked like it could be no more. They could only make offers to half of their **summers**. The pressures facing the firm ranged from clients moving to **AFAs**, to a compensation system that went from **lockstep** to **black-box**. Would they be the next **Dewey**?

14 terms = jargon

Do you have a story you'd like to share with Big Law Business about jargon? A term you wish we'd included, like Swiss verein? Drop us a line at BigLawBusiness@bna.com or tweet at us at [@BigLawBiz](https://twitter.com/BigLawBiz).

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