

Name _____

Words

Common Law - A system of law based on precedents and customs.

Stare decisis - A ruling that is used from an earlier case.

Statute - A written law.

Plaintiff - The party that brings charges against the accused. The government is always the plaintiff in a case.

Defendant - The individual or group that is being accused of a crime in a court of law.

Malice - A major crime that has been committed like murder or malicious stabbing.

Misdemeanor - A minor crime that has been broken.

Larceny - The taking of someone's property and not intending to ever return it.

Robbery - The taking of a person's property by using force or threats.

Hostage - The unlawful entry of a dwelling with the purpose of committing a crime.

Law suit - Legal action whereby a person or group seeks to collect damages that were done to them.

Sue - wrongful act for which an injured party has the right to sue.

Liability - Having legal duties toward another person.

Constitutional Law - Laws dealing with the formation, construction and interpretation of the constitution.

Stare Decisis - In Latin it means "Let the decision stand". The practice of using earlier judicial rulings as a basis for deciding cases.