ab initio; Latin, "from the outset." Refers to the moment in your conversation with your attorney when his billing meter begins to run.

adverse possession: The ultimate way to acquire real estate with no money down.
bankruptcy: Life after debt.

brief: A document containing legal arguments and designed to persuade a judge to rule in one's favor. To the extent that the term suggests brevity, it constitutes the only monosyllabic oxymoron in the English language.
casebook: An encyclopedia-sized volume for the instruction of law students and the enrichment of law professors.

client: Someone whose aversion to the other party in a lawsuit or distrust of the otherside in a deal exceeds his aversion to attorneys.
defendant: In civil cases, someone whose net assets are equal to or greater than the cost to someone else of hiring an attorney.

double billing: A conservative approach to billing, whereby only two clients are billed for a given unit of time, as opposed to the usual three or four. Very rare.
egress; In real property law, an exit. In general, a way out, which is what every attorney wants.

estop; To stop, attorneys add an "e" in order to double the syllables and render the word meaningless to lay persons.
fee; 1: In the law of real estate, full and unrestricted ownership of land. 2: A term whose loud utterance — Fee — constitutes the attorneys' equivalent of "Is there a doctor in the house?"
garnishment; The legal process by which your wages are channeled from your employer to your creditors in order to reduce your debts — and also to induce you to seek work elsewhere.

goodwill; In the law of corporations, a catchall category located on the asset side of a company's balance sheet to make its assets appear equal to its liabilities.
holiday: An occasion on which young lawyers are permitted to wear casual attire to the office.
**inter alia:** Latin, "among other things." A term used by attorneys and judges to sound erudite when they cannot think of any other examples to support a given point.

**interrogatory:** A written inquiry seeking information from an opposing party in a lawsuit. The difference between a "question" and an "interrogatory" is four syllables — hence attorney's preference for the latter.
A recent law-school graduate who by virtue of high grades or personal contacts has secured the prestigious position of assistant to a judge.

judicial clerkship: A device by which a young attorney postpones working for a living.
keg: A small, heavy barrel of ten gallons or less, always found at T.G.I.F's filled with beer.
legalese: An obscure language, based on Latin, which attorneys use to prevent laymen from understanding what they are charged with and for.

litigation: In the American legal system, a basic right which guarantees every person his decade in court.
malpractice; Failure to exercise reasonable care, and to possess a standard minimum of expertise, on the part of physicians, accountants, architects, engineers, and other professionals, except lawyers. Such failures on the part of lawyers is referred to as "unfortunate."
nonpaying client;
Someone soon to be in need of a new attorney.
objection; The cry of a lawyer who sees truth about to creep into the courtroom.

oyez; Anglo-French, "hear ye." A cry issued three times before commencement of proceeding of the Supreme Court, even if the room is empty. No one knows why.
photocopier; A device that shreds the originals of documents bearing client signatures.

pro se; Latin, "for yourself." Refers to the lawful but inadvisable act of representing yourself in court. Even attorneys hire other attorneys to represent them in court, so embarrassing is it to utter outrageous alibis on your own behalf.
quack; 1. The cry of the duck. 2. In medical malpractice cases, the physician who testifies for your opponent.
responsibility; Something for which young attorneys universally clamor — until they get it.

rule against perpetuities; Any of various rules designed to deal with senior partners who won’t work or retire.
Socratic method; A law-school teaching method also known as “learning through humiliation,” that involves a dialogue between a law professor and a randomly chosen student, the dialogue continuing until the latter yields either the proper answer, tears, or vomit.

Summer clerk; An overpaid, underabused, prospective attorney vacationing at a private law firm between years of law school.
taxes: Of life’s two certainties, the only one for which you can get an automatic extension.

trust: A device by which the “legal” and “beneficial” ownership of property are separated, as where a “donor” (say, your grandfather) places a “corpus” (the family fortune) under the legal control of a “trustee” (a bank) to be managed for a “beneficiary” (you).
under advisement; A place where judges hold cases indefinitely pending settlement by the parties.

uniformity; 1. Not varying, each one like all the others, consistent and unchanging. 2. Grades at Villanova Law School.
vacation; Among attorneys, a frequently discussed, little utilized period of varying duration (usually a weekend — in extreme instances, a weekend beginning at noon on Friday) in advance of which you drive yourself to exhaustion trying to clear your desk, and during which you lose sleep trying to remember what it was you forgot to take care of and dreading the pileup of work which you will encounter upon your return.
weekend; The last two workdays in an associate's week.
word processor: A machine for the mysterious deletion of words, sentences, and whole paragraphs from legal briefs the night before they are due in court.

yawn: 1. To open the jaws wide and inhale deeply from drowsiness, fatigue, boredom. 2. An involuntary response exhibited by third year law students during their infrequent visits to class.
zzz's: The last word in legal research and writing.
I could have danced all night...

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9:00 — 1:00 $24.00 per person