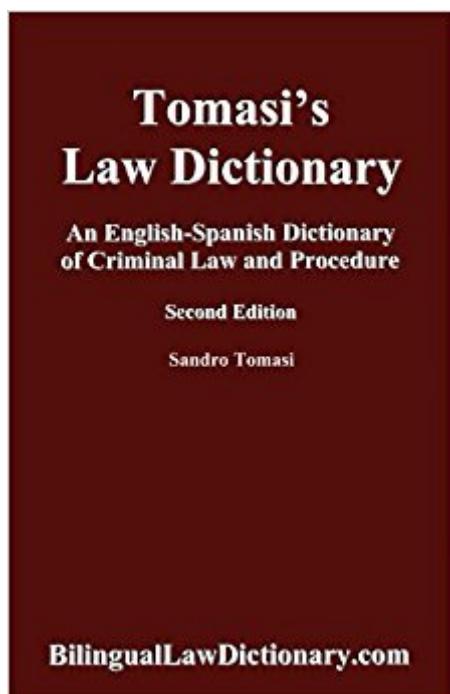


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# An English-Spanish Dictionary Of Criminal Law And Procedure (Tomasi's Law Dictionary). Second Edition (Bilingual Edition) (Spanish Edition)



## **Synopsis**

New York: BilingualLawDictionary.com, 2012. xvi, 332 pp. The most authoritative work in its field, An English-Spanish Dictionary of Criminal Law and Procedure contains common legal terms and expressions used in the United States which are translated into and defined in Spanish. The second edition has been completely revised and enlarged with twice the content of the first edition. It is the first legal lexicography work to include translations based on the criminal procedure law reforms that have been sweeping Latin America. All of the terms, expressions and definitions are solidly grounded on statutory law, case law, scholarly works and monolingual law dictionaries. In addition to some 1,100 entries and their corresponding single or multiple equivalents, which are displayed in a straightforward and naturally intuitive format, this incredibly unique bilingual law dictionary includes a variety of relevant explanatory and contextual elements including lexical and legal comments, examples of target-language laws, comparisons of similar terms and concepts, synonyms, abbreviations, translation pitfalls explained, translation examples in context, related terms, cross references and legal citations.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Testimonials about Tomasi's first edition: An absolute jewel! A must-have for all serious criminal law translators, interpreters and bilingual attorneys looking to use exactly the right word at the right time. In this definitive work, Sandro Tomasi debunks the translation myths surrounding many terms frequently heard in U.S. criminal courts, masterfully shedding light onto the most common English-Spanish terms and translation pitfalls. In sum, in this eminently portable volume, Sandro

Tomasi tells us not only how to say things best in modern Spanish but also why they should be said that way, providing clear explanations and citations of current Latin-American law to support his choices and renderings. Simply brilliant! ----Katty Kauffman, FCCI, AIIC, Santiago, Chile An effort that, without a doubt, will provide a lot of help to many colleagues and judges as well as scholars.

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----Ramon del Villar, FCCI, Attorney at Law Houston, Texas

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Best dictionary for a Spanish legal interpreter. I have both editions and use them frequently. This was for a friend who is about to take test for certification. Mr. Tomasi definitely knows the subject matter and has made his dictionaries very user friendly.

An amazing compilation.

Love it! Very helpfull.

Excellent!

Nice book. Helped me a lot!

I'm a court Spanish interpreter and I have other similar dictionaries that I like better, like McKenna's. But I will still keep this one for term comparisons.

Sandro TomasÃfÃ- has created a towering monument to authenticity in the field of Spanish legal interpretation and translation. Unlike every other law dictionary or glossary you've ever owned or referenced, this profoundly original project is based on the actual legal codes and expert legal commentary from 20 Spanish-speaking countries, painstakingly cross-referenced with US code and legal commentary in order to find the best possible equivalents. By relying exclusively (1st edition) or primarily (2nd edition) on monolingual sources and avoiding the use of other bilingual dictionaries as sources, whose authors tend to borrow heavily from each other and thereby perpetuate many unfortunate misnomers as a result, TomasÃfÃ- 's brainchild handily exposes and replaces quite a few poor linguistic choices currently endemic in the legal interpreting community. Established language professionals may be surprised, for example, to learn that "guilty plea" is not properly "declaraciÃfÃ n de culpabilidad"--in actual practice in Spanish-speaking legal communities, "declaraciÃfÃ n" is reserved for a statement, deposition, or testimony, while "conformidad del acusado", along with a handful of variants, is the real deal. An offense you are charged with in court is not an "ofensa" but rather "infracciÃfÃ n" while "infraction" is more properly "contravenciÃfÃ n" (and "ofensa" refers to a personal slight). These are but a few of the highly authenticated terms I personally have adopted for daily use in my career as a Master Certified Court Interpreter since encountering TomasÃfÃ- 's brilliant First, and now Second, editions. It is not the only legal dictionary you will want on your shelf, but it is irreplaceable for those of us who value high quality work.

TomasÃfÃ- trades breadth for great depth, delving deep into the nuts-and-bolts of word choice. The dictionary is exclusively English-to-Spanish. Perhaps two-thirds of its 1,500 or so entries come with definitions and a discussion of the terms and concepts in Spanish of a paragraph or two, while the most fundamental legal terms ("assault and battery", "beyond a reasonable doubt", "reckless", "misdemeanor", "due process of law", "closing arguments", "probation", etc.) receive multi-page treatment. Legal code from a variety of countries of origin is extensively quoted so that you may better appreciate why the research points to a particular translation. Translation pitfalls are detailed. Entire sentences you might hear commonly in the courtroom, with their suggested translations, are provided now and then within the entries. Additionally, in the back of the Second edition appear a number of helpful appendices in Spanish and English, including a charting out of the various degrees of homicide, different types of post-conviction supervision, how offenses are categorized, the structure of US Federal courts, a map of boundaries of US Courts of Appeals and US District

Courts, and a complex flow chart detailing the various stages of criminal prosecution. A previous reviewer observed that the book seems to favor terminology used mainly in the State of New York. Personally I do not find that to be the case. In addition to Federal Code and Sentencing Guidelines the bibliography lists criminal codes from the five US states: New York, Minnesota, California, New Mexico, and New Jersey among its sources. After many years of interpreting in North Carolina state courts, I myself find only a minuscule amount of the material presented to be unfamiliar, and even those few terms are generally cross-referenced with other, more familiar equivalents. Highly recommended. I like to keep this book within arm's reach and have recommended it to many of my colleagues.

It is a very useful dictionary, specifically, for court terms in New York. Mr. Tomasi obviously did his research and he does an outstanding job at providing great legal equivalents that stray from the anglicisms that are often used by less experienced interpreters and attorneys that do not have a complete grasp of the language. I would recommend it for those wanting to make more sense for the Spanish speakers within the US legal system.

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