

# Glossary: V

**Vacate.** To annul or set aside.

**Vacated Sentence.** A sentence that has been declared nullified by a court.

**Venire.** List of prospective jurors in a given jurisdiction.

**Veniremen.** A member of a **venire**.

**Venue.** The place where a trial is to be held.

**Venue, Change of.** Relocation of a trial from one location to another, usually because there is a perception that the trial will be biased in the original venue.

**Verdict.** A decision made by judge or jury concerning the guilt or innocence of a defendant.

**Vernonia School Dist. 47J v. Acton.** [No. 94-590](#) (1995). Upheld random drug testing in schools.

**Vicarious Liability.** Doctrine under which employers can be held accountable for the actions of their employees.

**Victim.** Person who has suffered as a result of an actual or attempted criminal action.

**Victim Impact Statement.** A document attached to the presentence investigation report that describes injuries to victims; used by judges in sentencing an offender.

**Vigilantism.** Where citizens take the law into their own hands, often dispensing justice with no regard to due process.

**Violation.** A legally prohibited act that is less serious than a misdemeanor, such as a traffic violation; usually punishable only by fine.

**Violent Felonies.** Any crime punishable by more than one year in prison or jail that causes serious bodily injury or death (e.g., aggravated assault, rape, murder).

**Virtue Theory.** See entry for the [Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#).

**Void for Overbreadth.** Laws that are unconstitutional because they are stated so broadly as to prohibit unobjectionable activities.

**Void for Vagueness.** Laws that are unconstitutional because they do not provide clear definitions of the prohibited act.

**Voir Dire.** [Old French]. "To Speak the Truth." Interrogation process where both judges and attorneys can seek to identify biases and prejudices in potential jurors. *See also* Edwin E. Wright's [\*\*Voir Dire: Preparation, Communication, and Presentation Selection, Theory, and Strategy\*\*](#)

**Voluntary.** An act performed knowingly and without physical or psychological coercion.

**Voluntary Manslaughter.** Intentional killings committed in the heat of passion accompanied by adequate provocation.