

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	vii
Introduction	1
Part One: Origins	
1. Celts, Anglo-Saxons, and Danes	9
2. The Norman Conquest and the Rise of French	19
3. The Resurgence of English	35
Part Two: The Nature of Legal Language	
4. Talking Like a Lawyer	51
5. The Quest for Precision	71
6. The Legal Lexicon	87
7. Interpretation and Meaning	115
8. Variation	133
Part Three: In the Courtroom	
9. Pleadings: Constructing the Legal Narrative	147
10. Testimony and Truth	153
11. Completing the Story	181
Part Four: Reforming the Language of the Law	
12. What Makes Legal Language Difficult to Understand?	203
13. Plain English	211
14. Communicating with the Jury	231
Conclusion	241

Appendices

A.	An Anglo-Saxon Legal Document	245
B.	A Case in Law French	247
C.	A Modern Will	249
D.	Excerpts from Jury Instructions	251
E.	Original Citibank Promissory Note	257
F.	Revised Citibank Promissory Note	261
	Notes	263
	Select Bibliography	293
	Word and Phrase Index	299
	General Index	305