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From the SelectedWorks of Seth Barrett Tillman

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Extract from Wikipedia Entry for "Shall and Will" citing Tillman & Tillman's "A Fragment on Shall and May"

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Available at: https://works.bepress.com/seth_barrett_tillman/194/
Legal use

Legislative acts and contracts sometimes use "shall" and "shall not" to express mandatory action and prohibition. However, it is sometimes used to mean "may" or "can". The most famous example of both of these uses of the word "shall" is the United States Constitution, and claims that "shall" is in fact or is not used with these different meanings have caused discussion and have significant consequences for interpreting the text's intended meaning. [8]

References


External links

- "Shall and Will". Fowler, H. W. 1908. The King's English - thorough discussion on the subject
- Complete descriptions of the English Tenses
- Webster 1913 - Entry for Shall
- "The Origins of some Prescriptive Grammar Rules" - quoting The Origins and Development of the English Language, Pyles and Algeo, 1993
- The Rise of Prescriptivism in English (PDF format)
- Exercises
- Nora Rotter Tillman & Seth Barrett Tillman, A Fragment on Shall and May, 50 Am. J. Legal Hist. 453 (2010)