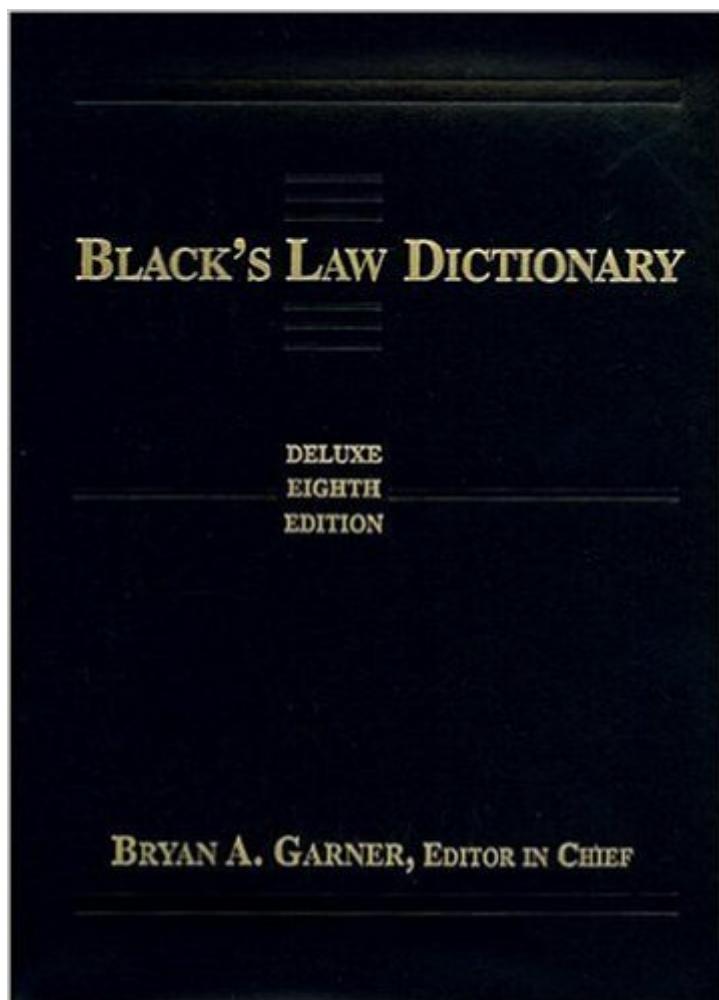


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# Black's Law Dictionary: Deluxe Thumb-Index



## **Synopsis**

Features more than ten thousand legal terms and includes a dictionary guide and the complete United States Constitution.

## **Book Information**

Series: Black's Law Dictionary

Hardcover: 1810 pages

Publisher: West Group; 8 Dlx Thm edition (July 30, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0314152342

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Product Dimensions: 2.8 x 7.5 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (219 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

I have to preface my review with a caveat: Black's is indispensable and if you're reading this, you need it. Also, I haven't looked through it extensively and so don't purport to rate this edition over the last one, just this deluxe version. Having said that, I can't recommend this particular version with cheap-ish vinyl/leatherette cover and thumb indexing. I just bought this deluxe version a few days ago for my sister who is going to enter law school in the fall. I decided that though the regular 7th version has served me well, she deserves the best. While this is surely the best, it is certainly not worth \$40+ more than the regular version. I feel like this \$100 book will look like a pretty weak stand-alone present for her now that I've taken a close look at it; it's just a little underwhelming. The cover, whatever it is, looks a little cheap and scratches and indents very easily. It already looks used and did not come sealed. The binding and overall workmanship seems to be on par with the regular edition I looked at (and the one I own), which is to say mediocre. The thumb indexing is a plus, and I guess that some people could desire that option enough to warrant the higher price. Also, the paper is of noticeably higher quality, more like a nice library quality Webster's than a regular book. But I never noticed that the paper in my previous edition was lacking until Barrister Books told me. The only other noteworthy thing about this particular version is the double take the cashier did when the price came up. Really, I don't think you can justify that jump in price, if they could do something

special for an additional \$40-50 (i.e.

This review is on the physical makeup of the deluxe edition and not on its content, which is the same as the standard edition. Today, Black's Law Dictionary is still the choice for a comprehensive, up-to-date American law dictionary. Other comprehensive dictionaries, such as Ballentine's, stopped publishing a print version decades ago. However, Aspen Publishing, a leading law book publisher, has recently published a fairly expensive comprehensive law dictionary that may give Black's some competition. West's list price for the standard edition is \$79 and \$130 for their deluxe one. What do you get for the extra \$51? You get thumb indexing and not much else. This is not exactly a luxury characteristic of reference books: most college edition English dictionaries have this feature and they cost less than \$20. You also get a binding which West calls "faux leather." West claims this makes the deluxe edition more durable. The front and back covers are certainly thicker or puffier on the deluxe edition, but the skin of the binding appears no more durable than on the standard edition. Only someone with serious visual impairment might think the binding was imitation leather, let alone real leather. For example the spine looks and feels like cardboard. On a bookshelf the book will not impress either your clients or friends with your good taste. At the time of this review the deluxe edition was available only from market sellers, some with prices exceeding the list price. If West wants to sell a deluxe version of Black's in a future edition they should take a hint from the comprehensive medical dictionaries and include a CD or DVD with meaningful extras.

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