

O

o. An abbreviation for “son of” in ancient Irish surnames. From such derives the familiar prefix in names such as O'Hara; O'Mara; and O'Shea.

oath. A calling on God to witness what is averred as truth, accompanied expressly or impliedly with an invocation of God's vengeance or a renunciation of God's favor in the event of falsehood. 39 Am J1st Oath § 2. A solemn appeal to God, to a superior sanction, or to a sacred or revered person, to witness the inviolability of a promise or undertaking. People ex rel. Bryant v Zimmerman, 241 NY 405, 150 NE 497, 43 ALR 909. Any form of attestation by which a person signifies that he is bound in conscience to perform an act or to speak faithfully and truthfully. State ex rel. Braley v Gay, 59 Minn 6, 60 NW 676.

The word has been construed to include "affirmation" in cases where, by law, an affirmation may be substituted for an oath. 39 Am J1st Oath § 2.

oath decisory. (Civil law.) A decisive oath, an oath upon which the cause rested where one of the parties to the action elected to leave the issue to the oath of his adversary.

oath ex officio. An oath made by an accused clergyman whereby he might swear his innocence (or others might do so for him) and thus escape the censure or punishment of the ecclesiastical court.

This practice of "canonical purgation," as it was called, continued until it was abolished by statute 13 Charles II, c. 12. See 3 Bl Comm 101.

oath in litem. (Civil law.) An oath as to the value of the thing in dispute.

oath of abjuration. An oath made by a person upon his voluntary abandonment of his citizenship.

oath of allegiance. An oath, required to be taken in open court by a person seeking naturalization, that he will support the Constitution of the United States; that he entirely and absolutely renounces and abjures all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of which he was before a citizen or subject; that he will support and defend the Constitution and the laws of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and will bear true faith and allegiance to them; and that he will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law, or perform noncombatant services in the Armed Forces of the United States when required, or will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required, depending upon his religious training and belief. 8 USC § 1448(a).

oath of calumny. (Civil law.) An oath of good faith which was required of a plaintiff as a prerequisite of his right to sue.

oath of grand juror. A declaration, after having been duly sworn, that the grand jurors will diligently inquire and true presentment make of all such matters and things as shall be given them in charge; that they will keep secret the state's, their fellow jurors', and their own counsel; and that they will present no man for envy, hatred, or malice; neither will they leave any man unpresented for love, fear, favor, affection, or hope of reward, but will present things truly, as they come to their knowledge, according to the best of their understanding. Anno: 22 ALR 1357.

oath of juror. A statement under oath by a juror that he will do his duty as a juror, that he will well and truly try the issues joined, and a true verdict render according to the law and the evidence. Demato v People, 49 Colo 147, 111 P 703.

oath of loyalty. See **loyalty oath**.