

# ADAC-Legal-US 0.9.0-draft.1 — Field Vocabulary Guide (Practitioner Edition)

**Audience:** US attorneys, litigation support teams, e-discovery and records professionals

This guide explains the vocabulary additions used by the United States jurisdiction profile.

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## 1. Inheritance

A `us` matter uses:

- base ADAC-Legal vocabulary, plus
- US-specific additions described here

Related subset guides:

- [ADAC-Legal-US-LA-Profile-Vocabulary-Reference.md](#)
  - [ADAC-Legal-US-PR-Profile-Vocabulary-Reference.md](#)
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## 2. When to use `us`

Use `us` when the matter is governed by US federal law or by a common-law state system and no more specific subdivision profile is needed.

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## 3. Document Types (US additions)

Term	Meaning in Practice	Use When
complaint	Initial civil pleading.	The matter begins with a complaint or petition.
answer	Responsive pleading with defenses/counterclaims.	The responding party answers the complaint.
summons	Court-issued summons.	A summons is issued to compel

Term	Meaning in Practice	Use When
		response/appearance.
rule26InitialDisclosure	FRCP initial disclosure package.	US federal discovery requires Rule 26 disclosures.
interrogatoryResponse	Written responses to interrogatories.	Discovery involves interrogatories.
requestForProduction	Request for production or response.	Discovery involves document/ESI requests.
requestForAdmission	Request for admission or response.	Discovery involves admissions practice.
rule30b6Deposition	Organizational deposition topic examination.	FRCP 30(b)(6) practice applies.
stipulation	Party agreement filed or exchanged in writing.	A formal stipulation is used.
protectiveOrder	Discovery confidentiality order.	The court restricts discovery disclosure.
indictment	Grand-jury criminal charge.	Criminal case begins by indictment.
informationCharge	Prosecutor-filed criminal charge without grand jury.	Criminal case proceeds by information.
pleaBargainAgreement	Written plea agreement.	Criminal plea resolution is documented.
sentencingMemorandum	Sentencing advocacy memorandum.	Criminal sentencing submissions are filed.

## 4. Confidentiality Levels (US additions)

Term	Meaning in Practice	Use When
aeoAttorneysEyesOnly	Outside counsel only.	Protective order excludes clients/in-house teams.
aeoSourceCode	Highly restricted source-code review tier.	Source-code review requires controlled inspection.
controlledUnclassified	Sensitive but unclassified government information.	Government-sensitive material is not formally classified.

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## 5. Matter Types (US additions)

Term	Meaning in Practice
chapter7Bankruptcy	Chapter 7 liquidation proceeding.
chapter11Bankruptcy	Chapter 11 reorganization proceeding.
chapter13Bankruptcy	Chapter 13 wage-earner adjustment.
chapter15Bankruptcy	Cross-border insolvency proceeding.
classAction	Rule 23 class action.
multidistrictLitigation	Federal MDL proceeding.
quiTam	False Claims Act relator action.
section1983	Civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.
socialSecurityAppeal	Social Security review in federal court.
federalHabeasCorpus	Federal habeas proceeding.

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## 6. Custody Actions (US additions)

Term	Meaning in Practice	Use When
producedInDiscovery	Produced in discovery.	The production event is specifically part of US discovery.
lodgedWithCourt	Lodged with court pending ruling or disposition.	Material is submitted but not treated as ordinary filing.
filedUnderSeal	Filed under seal.	Court filing is sealed from public access.
clawback	Returned after inadvertent privileged production.	FRE 502 / privilege clawback practice applies.

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## 7. Privilege Categories (US additions)

Term	Meaning in Practice	Use When
attorneyClientPrivilege	US attorney-client privilege doctrine.	The privilege basis is the classic US doctrine.
workProductDoctrine	US work-product doctrine.	The protected material was prepared for litigation.
jointDefensePrivilege	Shared defense communications protection.	Co-parties share privileged communications in a common defense.
commonInterestPrivilege	US common-interest doctrine.	Shared legal-interest communications need a US-specific label.

## 8. Redaction Reasons (US additions)

Term	Meaning in Practice
foiaExemption1	Classified defense/foreign-policy information.
foiaExemption5	Deliberative, attorney-client, or work-product style exemption.
foiaExemption6	Personal privacy exemption.
foiaExemption7c	Law-enforcement privacy exemption.
grandJurySecret	Grand jury secrecy protection.
sealedIndictment	Sealed indictment protection.
taxReturnConfidentiality	Tax return confidentiality.
juvenileRecord	Juvenile record confidentiality.

## 9. Common confusions

- Prefer `producedInDiscovery` over generic `produced` when the event is specifically a discovery production.
- Prefer `attorneyClientPrivilege` over `legalProfessionalPrivilege` when doctrinally precise US terminology is desired.

- Prefer workProductDoctrine over neutral litigationPrivilege in ordinary US practice.