

**ATTORNEY** (*in law*). A person appointed to do something for and in the stead and name of another. An **attorney** is either public or special. The former is an officer of a court, who is authorised by the laws and the rules of the court to represent suitors, without any special written authority for the purpose. The rules and qualifications, whereby one is authorised to practise as an **attorney** in any court, are very different in different countries, and in different courts of the same country.

A special **attorney** is appointed by a deed called a *power or letter of attorney*, and the deed by which he is appointed specifies the acts which he is authorised to do. It is a commission, to the extent of which only he can bind his principal. As far as the acts of the **attorney**, in the name of the principal, are authorised by his power, his acts are those of his principal. But if he goes beyond his authority, his acts will bind himself only; and he must indemnify any one to whom, without authority, he represents himself as an attorney of another, and who contracts with him, or otherwise puts confidence in him, as being such attorney. See **SOLICITOR**.

GEOGRAPHY, LAW, AND POLITICS.



BY CHARLES F. PARTINGTON,

PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL PHILOSOPHY, &c.; ASSISTED BY AUTHORS OF EMINENCE  
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