

‘Petition,’ ‘writ,’ and ‘certiorari’ defined

petition, *n.* . . . A formal written request presented to a court or other official body. *Black’s Law Dictionary*, Seventh Edition, p. 1165.

writ (rit). A court’s written order, in the name of a state or other competent legal authority, commanding the addressee to do or refrain from doing some specified act. *Black’s Law Dictionary*, Seventh Edition, p. 1602.

certiorari (sər-shee-ə-**rair**-I *or* -**rair**-ee *or* -**rah**-ree). [Law Latin “to be more fully informed”] An extraordinary writ issued by an appellate court, at its discretion, directing a lower court to deliver the record of the case for review. ● The U.S. Supreme Court uses certiorari to review most of the cases that it decides to hear. — Abbr. cert. — Also termed *writ of certiorari*. *Black’s Law Dictionary*, Seventh Edition, p. 220.