



RAILS-TO-TRAILS DICTIONARY

Cc

centerline presumption /centerline prɪˈzʌmpʃən/ *n.*

a rule almost all states recognize in some form, which presumes that landowners whose property adjoins a railway own to the centerline of the railway.

claims book /kleɪmz bʊk/ *n.*

a compilation of documents required to show the federal government's liability in the takings case, including the current deed, current tax bill, a map of the property, a map of the railroad line, the deed by which the railroad acquired an interest in the property.

Ee

easement /ˈiːzəmənt/ *n.*

a right to use someone else's land for some purpose.

Ff

fee simple /fiː ˈsɪmpl/ *n.*

a type of interest in land; when someone holds title to land in fee simple, the land is owned completely, without limitation or condition, by the landowner.

fifth amendment /fɪfθ əˈmɛndmənt/ *n.*

an addition to the United States Constitution providing, among other things, that the federal government cannot take private property for public use without paying just compensation.



Ii

inverse condemnation /ɪnˈvɜːs ˌkɒndɛmˈneɪʃən/ *n.*

an act when the federal government takes private property without paying the compensation required by the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Jj

just compensation /dʒʌst ˌkɒmpənˈseɪʃən/ *n.*

the fair market value of the property taken.

Nn

national trails system act /ˈnæʃənl treɪlz ˈsɪstɪm ækt/ *n.*

a piece of federal legislation allowing for the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors into recreational trails, and setting forth the process and requirements for such conversion.

notice of interim trail use /ˈnəʊtɪs ɒv ˈɪntərɪm treɪl juːz/ *n.*

the document issued by the Surface Transportation Board which formally authorizes conversion of a railway into a recreational trail and the issuance of which triggers the Fifth Amendment taking; also known as the NITU.



Rr

railbanking /railbanking/ *v.*

the process when an abandoned railroad is converted into a recreational trail, preserving the railroad corridor for potential future use as a railroad, but, in the meantime, allowing a recreational trail to be constructed where the railroad used to be.

Ss

surface transportation board /'sɜːfɪs ˌtrænsˌpɔːtɪʃən bɔːd/ *n.*

a federal agency, also known as the STB, with jurisdiction over regulation of surface transportation, including railroads.

Tt

taking /'teɪkɪŋ/ *v.*

an act when the government seizes private property for public use.

Uu

united states court of federal claims /juˈnaɪtɪd steɪts kɔːt ɒv 'fɛdərəl kleɪmz/ *n.*

a United States federal court, established by Congress in 1855, authorized to allow citizens to file claims for money against the federal government.

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