

Please Be Advised

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“Please be advised, we represent
Parties, hereinabove,
Whose names upon this document
Are written first above.”

Thus starts the correspondence of
The average legal firm
Which would be most despondent if
It could not use that term.

“Please be advised,” who to them taught
This ineffective phrase?
Do they not know it meaneth naught
To them who on it gaze?

Why must the average lawyer speak
In ways the average man
Though long its hidden meaning seeks
Will seldom understand?

Some legal maxim to embrace,
Why must we use a word
That more than half the human race
Has likely never heard?

Why can't we speak in simple guise
Like common people do?
Instead of saying, “Be advised,”
They'd simply say: “Hey, you.”

They would not say "hereinabove,"
"Whereof" or "heretofore,"
Those useless words most lawyers love
To dish out by the score.

Why can't we break this habit we
Have clung to, right or wrong,
Which any fool can plainly see
We've done for far too long.

Dear Lord in Heaven we implore
As time eternal flies,
Hereafter we may hear no more
Those words: "*Please be advised.*"