

# Quo Warranto

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From [Black's Law Dictionary](#) 2nd edition online.

“In old English practice. A writ, in the nature of a writ of right for the king, against him who claimed or usurped any office, franchise, or liberty; to inquire by what authority he supported his claim, in order to determine the right It lay also in case of non-user, or long neglect of a franchise, or misuser or abuse of it; being a writ **commanding the defendant to show by what warrant he exercises such a franchise**, having never had any grant of it or having forfeited it by neglect or abuse. 3 Bl. Comm. 262. In England, and quite generally throughout the United States, this writ has given place to an “Information in the nature of a quo warranto,” which, though in form a criminal proceeding, is in effect a civil remedy similar to the old writ, and **is the method now usually employed for trying the title to a corporate or other franchise, or to a public or corporate office.**”