

## Terms for Legal Experts in Cicero

Prosopographical studies of jurists of the Roman Republic are grounded on the following assumptions: First, the jurists, or legal consultants, form a cohesive group, usually defined in contrast to the orators, or advocates; second, a figure is a jurist if he either listed by Pomponius or is referred to elsewhere—most often Cicero—as *iuris consultus*, *peritus*, *prudens*, or another “equivalent term” (Bauman, 5; cf. Kunkel). In this paper I argue that these criteria are flawed. Several Latin terms for jurist or legal expert are used interchangeably in later Roman authors. A review of usages in Cicero, however, strongly suggests that Cicero’s various ways of referring to legal experts are not interchangeable, but rather have various shades of meaning. In particular, *consultus* is marked in relation to *peritus* and *prudens* (*De Orat.* 1.212; *Pro Caec.* 14, 78; *Ad Fam.* 3.1.3). I suggest further that the reason why Cicero uses terminology with varying shades of meaning is because he is writing about many individuals who combined involvements with advocacy and civil law expertise in varying degrees (*Brut.* 97-98, 108, 129-30, 178). In effect, the diversity of terms for legal expert argues against the homogeneity of ‘the jurists’ as category.

Bauman, Richard A. 1983. *Lawyers in Roman Republican Politics: A Study the Roman Jurists in their Political Setting*. Munich.

Kunkel, Wolfgang. 2001 [1967]. *Die römischen Juristen. Herkunft und soziale Stellung*. Köln.