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| **Chapter 25** |  |
| **administrative laws** | Administrative rules and regulations, executive orders, and enforcement decisions related to the implementation and interpretation of statutory laws. |
| **common law** | Body of unwritten rules and principles derived from thousands of past legal decisions. It is based on evaluation of what is reasonable behavior in attempting to balance competing social interests. Compare statutory law. |
| **defendant** | The individual, group of individuals, corporation, or government agency being charged in a lawsuit. Compare plaintiff. |
| **democracy** | Government by the people through their elected officials and appointed representatives. In a constitutional democracy, a constitution provides the basis of government authority and puts restraints on government power through free elections and freely expressed public opinion. |
| **environmental law** | Body of statements defining what is reasonable environmental behavior for individuals and groups, according to the larger community, and attempting to balance competing social and private interests. It includes statutory laws, administrative laws, and common laws. |
| **environmental policy** | Laws, rules, and regulations related to an environmental problem that are developed, implemented, and enforced by a particular government agency. |
| **lobbying** | The process by which individuals or groups use public pressure, personal contacts, and political action to persuade legislators to vote or act in their favor. |
| **plaintiff** | The individual, group of individuals, corporation, or government agency bringing the charges in a lawsuit. Compare defendant. |
| **politics** | Process through which individuals and groups try to influence or control government policies and actions that affect the local, state, national, and international communities. |
| **statutory law** | Law developed and passed by legislative bodies such as federal and state governments. Compare common law. |

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