

De jure is the Latin expression for “by law” or “by right” and is used to describe a practice that exists by right or according to law. In contemporary use, the phrase almost always means “as a matter of law.”

De jure is often contrasted with de facto

De facto action is an action taken without strict legal authority to do so, but recognized as legally valid nonetheless. The action is considered something that acquires validity based on the fact of its existence and tradition.