

Li'en

li'en (lē'ĕn; lĕn; 277), *n.* [F., band, **bond**, tie, fr. L. *ligamen*, fr. *ligare* to bind. See LIGAMENT; cf. LIMER.]

Law. A **charge** upon real or personal **property** for the satisfaction of some debt or **duty**; a right in one to control or to hold and **retain** or enforce a charge against the **property** of another until some claim of the former is paid or **satisfied**. The **common-law lien** arises only in cases of possession of personal property, usually under a bailment, as, a **carrier's lien** for freight, and **confers only** the **right to retain** the **property** until the claim is paid (though equity early afforded the relief of a foreclosure). It may be either for the satisfaction only of an obligation contracted in respect of the property itself (a **particular**, or **specific, lien**) or for the satisfaction of a balance due from the owner of the property to the lienor (**general lien**) not confined to the amount due in respect of the property itself.

An **equitable lien** is one which is given effect in courts of equity. It may be on real or personal property, and **does not require possession** of the property. A **maritime lien** **does not require possession** of the property, and is **enforced** by a libel **in admiralty**, as the lien of sailors for wages on vessel and cargo. A **statutory lien** is given in certain cases by statutory provisions, as a **mechanic's lien**, for material (**materialman's lien**) or for labor supplied; a **judgment lien**, arising on a judgment, usually only on filing of the judgment in the county where the real estate lies; an **agricultural lien**, securing loans made on the strength of growing crops, etc.; a **tax lien**, i. e. a statutory charge upon property for taxes due.

