

Transparency 4

Key Principles of Roman Law

“Let justice be done,
though the heavens fall!”

–Roman Saying

Key Principles of Roman Law

- Fostered unity and stability
- Included two systems of law: civil law for Roman citizens, and the law of nations, which Romans believed applied to all people because it was based on laws of nature
- The accused had the right to face the accuser and offer a defense against the charge.
- Guilt had to be established “clearer than daylight” through evidence.
- Judges were allowed to interpret the laws and were expected to make fair decisions.