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AMERICAN
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dictionary

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mal·fea·sance  (măl-fē zəns)

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n.

Misconduct or wrongdoing, especially by a public official.

[Anglo-Norman *malfeasance*, from Old French *malfaisant*, malfeasant, present participle of *malfaire*, to do evil, from Latin *malefacere*; see [MALEFACTOR](#).]

mal·fea sant *adj. & n.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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