A declaration of the highe and honoble Court of Chauncerie and of the Judges and Officers there wth their perticuler Offices together wth the proceedings in the same.

Seeinge by Godes favor I intend somwhat to discourse of the manner of proceedinge in Chauncerie suits, to the performinge whereof, it seemeth requisite, first to unfold the nature of equitie, conscience, and the rigor of the comon lawes of this Realme, as the prop obiect or matter whereabouts such suits are for the most pt ocupied, to thintent it maie wth the more facilitie bee understood, how, and when such suits are fitlie to bee taken in hand. Therefore I will first speake of summum ius (wth ostentymes precisely regardeth the verie lre and words of the comon lawes) for remedie whereof, parties greived pray ayde of this honoble Court of Chauncerie, to bridle extremitie, and reduce such rigor to equitie and conscience

If strict or precise lawe wch is called summum ius

Aristotle calleth it exact or precise lawe, because that yf it have noe allay in it to qualifie the harshnes and seuditie of it, it is unpleasant and sower in tast, and repugnant to equitie.

And Gudaeus saith that this word (strict and precise lawe) is a word wth amongst the Civilians signifieth verie hard lawe, exact and full of rigor, and almost unmist, for they that write of the lawe, make these words strict lawe, and equitie, opposite the one to the other. The Lawiers doe also terme it ius subtile subtile lawe, & the Lawiers doe terme it summum ius, lawe in the highest degree