

**From:** Carl Malamud [carl@media.org](mailto:carl@media.org)  
**Subject:** Re: AJC  
**Date:** August 7, 2015 at 10:58 AM  
**To:** Bluestein, Greg (CMG-Atlanta) [Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com](mailto:Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com)

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Well, you did a fairly short piece, I think it was online only. There is a lot of meat in this issue.

One angle you might consider is that this is about a much larger struggle. Only a few states purport to own the law, but technical public safety codes that are law (such as building and electrical codes) are equally important and we are fighting that fight on 3 continents, with two district court cases in the U.S., one in Germany (over the EU baby pacifier safety standard!) and in India.

The other angle you might consider is what happens when the restrictions on use are lifted. The state of Oregon and the cities of Washington, DC, Chicago and several others have \*vastly\* better online codes because of our efforts and there are city officials who would speak on the record. The cool thing ... The better online codes were done by volunteers.

We had a similar online miracle when I advised the Obama transition effort on the issue of the Official Journals of Government. The result was a vastly better Federal Register, codes by volunteers.

Sent from my.phone.org.

On Aug 7, 2015, at 10:40 AM, Bluestein, Greg (CMG-Atlanta) <[Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com](mailto:Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com)> wrote:

Hey Carl,

Yes, we're thinking about a followup. Any suggestions?

IN the meantime, I'm sure we'd be interested in an op-ed. Our go-to is Andre Jackson at [andre.jackson@ajc.com](mailto:andre.jackson@ajc.com).

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From: Carl Malamud [[carl@media.org](mailto:carl@media.org)]  
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2015 1:03 PM  
To: Bluestein, Greg (CMG-Atlanta)  
Subject: Re: AJC

I was curious if you folks were going to do a longer piece?

If not, do you have any interest in an op-ed from me?

Best regards,

Carl

On Jul 30, 2015, at 6:58 AM, Bluestein, Greg (CMG-Atlanta) <[Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com](mailto:Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com)> wrote:

Definitely. Lemme send.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 30, 2015, at 9:55 AM, Carl Malamud <[carl@media.org](mailto:carl@media.org)> wrote:

Saw the quote in Morning Jolt.

Was wondering if Caldwell's letter is public or if you can share a copy?

On Jul 28, 2015, at 9:39 AM, Bluestein, Greg (CMG-Atlanta) <[Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com](mailto:Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com)> wrote:

Mucho bueno. Thanks Carl. Keep in touch!

Greg Bluestein  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

From: [carl@media.org](mailto:carl@media.org)  
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 12:35 PM

Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2015 12:55 PM  
To: Greg Bluestein

Great talking to you!

The back and forth with Georgia was this link:

|| <https://law.resource.org/pub/us/code/ga/>

My point on innovation is a really important one ... when only one organization has the official license to present the law to citizens, you get the kind of stuff Lexis is giving Georgia. Again, the state has every right to build a web site, even a bad one, but this is about preventing others from making better ones.

In Chicago, this is what the official code looks like from the vendor:

[http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Illinois/chicago\\_il/municipalcodeofchicago?f=templates\\$fn=default.htm\\$3.0\\$vid=amlegal:chicago\\_il](http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll/Illinois/chicago_il/municipalcodeofchicago?f=templates$fn=default.htm$3.0$vid=amlegal:chicago_il)

Not bad. But, compare it to this, which is done by volunteers:

<http://chicagocode.org/>

Here is what the Chicago City Clerk had to say about Georgia:

<https://twitter.com/chicityclerk/status/625687752378589185>

I think Clerk Mendoza's communications director is Pat Corcoran and he is/was at 312-744-8590.

The other example is the DC District Code. Again, when restrictions were dropped on the code, a bunch of volunteers got together and built a vastly better web site:

<http://dccode.org/>

Compare to the Lexis site:

<http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/dccode/>

General Counsel of DC was V. David Zvenyach. He now works for the federal government.

Carl

On Jul 28, 2015, at 8:38 AM, Carl Malamud <carl@media.org> wrote:

Saw the post you did ... is that your story or are you still working on it?

On Jul 28, 2015, at 7:56 AM, Carl Malamud <carl@media.org> wrote:

Sure, I'd be happy to talk. You want to call me? I'm free for the next hour, then dive into phone calls. 707.827.7290. Email is fine if you prefer.

Do you have the background materials that I've posted?

1. The court case is here:

<http://archive.org/download/gov.uscourts.gand.218354.docket.html>

2. My paper trail with the state of Georgia is here:

<https://law.resource.org/pub/us/code/ga/>

3. My testimony on Edicts of Government, including a discussion of Georgia, is here:

<https://public.resource.org/edicts/>

(if you follow the links to the Internet Archive full hearing, 4 members took a strong stance on this subject, including 2 Georgia congressman (Hank Johnson and Doug Collins) as well as Darrell Issa and Zoe Lofgren ... scroll down into the description and you'll have direct links to their statements)

4. We had a similar showdown with Oregon but no court case. They did the civilized thing and held hearings and then decided that the law belongs to the people.

<https://public.resource.org/oregon.gov/>

<https://blogs.law.harvard.edu/infolaw/2008/04/16/can-states-copyright-their-statutes/>

On Jul 28, 2015, at 7:49 AM, Bluestein, Greg (CMG-Atlanta) <Greg.Bluestein@ajc.com> wrote:

Hi Carl,

Do you have any comment on Georgia's lawsuit? Would love to include it in my story.

Greg Bluestein  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Sent from my iPhone

