From: **MIKE NOLAN** m.nolan2@verizon.net
Subject: Georgia Legislature
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To: carl@media.org

Georgia sues man for posting annotated state laws online.

This is my take on Georgia is suing Public.Resource.Org and you, the owner:

Claim: Allegedly violating copyright by publishing the annotated versions of Georgia's laws (that is, the ones that truly reflect the legislative process) online.

Argument: First of all, the Georgia legislature is paid and funded to conduct state business from public funds paid into the state treasury by the tax payers. Therefore, any business they conduct, as a matter of state, is public and subject to the Freedom of Information Act. The Georgia legislature can not claim intellectual property rights because it is conducting the business of legislation in the interest of the public, the citizens of Georgia, and there work falls under "Public Domain."

Claim: The state argues that the public should pay Lexis Nexis up to $378 to read the context-laden versions. The state claims that it would have to dip into tax dollars if it wanted to make this information free, and citizens would supposedly be deprived of "valuable analysis and guidance" if it wasn't published at all.

Argument: The states argument the public should pay Lexis Nexis up too $378 to read the context-laden versions is without merit. The state paid Lexis-Nexis from state treasury funds, here again taxpayer funded, to publish legislation for the state of Georgia. Since the publishing firm was paid by the state of Georgia, the state of Georgia owns the material, not copyright, paid for by public taxes to the state treasury. Therefore, it belongs to the public by "Public Domain."

Claim: Publishing unauthorized scans. The scans were taken from sites publishing Georgia state legislation. The legislation is the material of the state of Georgia funded by the state treasurer thru public funds collected thru taxes. Therefore, the scans can not claim copyright infringement because the material, legislation, falls under "Public Domain."

This is a case that affects laws, whether they are local

This is a case that affects laws, whether they are local ordinance, state legislation, or legislation enacted by the U.S. Congress. In all cases, no matter the source of laws, irregardless of intellectual source, the material is owned by Americans by right of "Public Domain," paid thru the collection of taxes by U.S. citizens. The Supreme Court of the United States is the only court in the land that can make a judgement in this case because of the broad spectrum of states affected by the matter of the publics right to be made aware of the laws governing them, and the right of "Public Domain."

Mike Nolan Sr