

No. 18-1150

In the Supreme Court of the United States

STATE OF GEORGIA, ET AL., PETITIONERS,

v.

PUBLIC.RESOURCE.ORG, INC.

*ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES
COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT*

BRIEF FOR THE PETITIONERS

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QUESTION PRESENTED

This Court has held, as a matter of “public policy,” that judicial opinions are not copyrightable. *Banks v. Manchester*, 128 U.S. 244, 253-254 (1888). Based on that precedent, lower courts have held that certain other “government edicts” having the force of law, such as state statutes, are not eligible for copyright protection.

The question presented is:

Whether the government edicts doctrine extends to—and thus renders uncopyrightable—works that lack the force of law, such as the annotations in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

(I)

II

PARTIES TO THE PROCEEDINGS

1. Petitioners, the State of Georgia and the Georgia Code Revision Commission, on behalf of and for the benefit of the General Assembly of Georgia, were plaintiffs and counter-defendants in the district court, and appellees below.

2. Respondent Public.Resource.Org, Inc., was the defendant and counter-claimant in the district court, and the appellant below.

III

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