

No. 18-1150

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**In the Supreme Court of the United States**

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STATE OF GEORGIA, ET AL., PETITIONERS,

*v.*

PUBLIC.RESOURCE.ORG, INC.

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

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**BRIEF FOR THE PETITIONERS**

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ANTHONY B. ASKEW  
LISA C. PAVENTO  
WARREN J. THOMAS  
MEUNIER CARLIN &  
CURFMAN LLC  
*999 Peachtree St. NE,  
Suite 1300  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
(404) 645-7700*

DANIEL R. ORTIZ  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
SCHOOL OF LAW  
SUPREME COURT  
LITIGATION CLINIC  
*580 Massie Road  
Charlottesville, VA  
22903*

JEREMY C. MARWELL  
JOSHUA S. JOHNSON  
*Counsel of Record*  
MATTHEW X. ETCHEMENDY  
VINSON & ELKINS LLP  
*2200 Pennsylvania Ave.,  
NW, Suite 500 West  
Washington, DC 20037  
(202) 639-6500  
joshjohnson@velaw.com*

JOHN P. ELWOOD  
ARNOLD & PORTER KAYE  
SCHOLER LLP  
*601 Massachusetts Ave.,  
NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 942-5992*

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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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