

Kluwer Copyright Blog

Copyright case: Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org Inc., USA

Cheryl Beise (Wolters Kluwer Legal & Regulatory US) · Friday, April 9th, 2021

Finding that the government edicts doctrine covers legislative works, Court holds that Georgia's annotations are inherently public domain material because they are authored by an arm of the legislature in the course of its official duties.

In a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that the annotations in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OGCA) are ineligible for copyright protection. The Court first clarified that the judicially created government edicts doctrine—which provides that works authored by judges are public domain materials that cannot be copyrighted—extends to works created by legislators acting in their legislative capacity. The Court next determined that while the copyrighted annotations in the OGCA are created by a private party on a work-for-hire basis, the actual “author” of the annotations is Georgia’s Code Revision Commission, acting “as an extension of the Georgia Legislature in preparing and publishing the annotations.” Chief Justice Roberts delivered the opinion of the Court. Justices Sotomayor, Kagan, Gorsuch, and Kavanaugh joined in the majority opinion, while Justice Thomas and Justice Ginsburg filed dissenting opinions (*Georgia v. Public.Resource.Org, Inc.*, April 27, 2020, Roberts, J.).

Case date: 27 April 2020

Case number: Dkt. No. 18-1150

Court: Supreme Court of the United States

A full summary of this case has been published on [Kluwer IP Law](#).

To make sure you do not miss out on regular updates from the Kluwer Copyright Blog, please subscribe [here](#).

Kluwer IP Law

The **2022 Future Ready Lawyer survey** showed that 79% of lawyers think that the importance of legal technology will increase for next year. With Kluwer IP Law you can navigate the increasingly global practice of IP law with specialized, local and cross-border information and

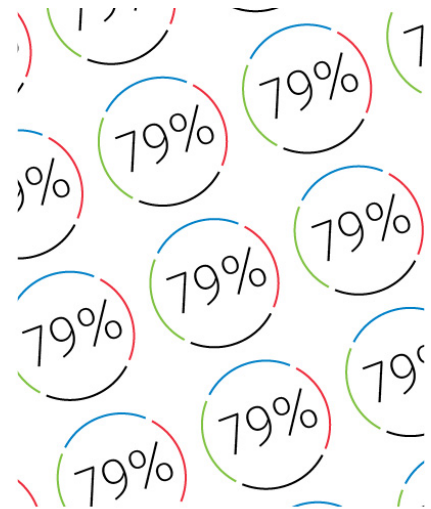
tools from every preferred location. Are you, as an IP professional, ready for the future?

Learn how **Kluwer IP Law** can support you.

79% of the lawyers think that the importance of legal technology will increase for next year.

Drive change with Kluwer IP Law.

The master resource for Intellectual Property rights and registration.



2022 SURVEY REPORT

The Wolters Kluwer Future Ready Lawyer
Leading change

This entry was posted on Friday, April 9th, 2021 at 2:41 pm and is filed under [Case Law, USA](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [Comments \(RSS\)](#) feed. You can leave a response, or [trackback](#) from your own site.