# Exhibit 23

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RECOP-bulk access

RECAP—pacer access



## Law.Gov

# A Proposed Distributed Repository of All Primary Legal Materials of the United States



#### ABOUT LAW. GOV

Law. Gov is an idea, an idea that the primary legal materials of the United States should be readily available to all, and that governmental institutions should make these materials available in bulk as distributed, authenticated, well-formatted data. To make this idea a reality, a series of workshops were held throughout the country, resulting in a consensus on 10 core principles.

## LAW. GOV PRINCIPLES AND DECLARATION

The primary legal materials of the United States are the raw materials of our democracy. They should be made more broadly available to enable an informed citizenry.

Primary legal materials include documents of primary authority issued by governmental bodies, such as court opinions, statutes, and regulations. They also include the supporting documents and other media issued and maintained by those bodies, such as dockets, hearings, forms, oral arguments, and legislative histories. These materials can be found in every branch, at every level, national, tribal, state and local, and should be available to anyone with the will and the heart to obtain them.

The following principles should govern the dissemination of primary legal materials in the United States:

- Direct fees for dissemination of primary legal materials should be avoided.
- Limitations on access through terms of use or the assertion of copyright on primary legal materials is contrary to long-standing public policy and core democratic principles and is misleading to
- 3. Primary legal materials should be made available using bulk access mechanisms so they may be downloaded by anyone.
- 4. The primary legal materials, and the methods used to access them, should be authenticated so people can trust in the integrity of these materials.



- 5. Historical archives should be made available online and in a static location to the extent possible.
- 6. Vendor- and media-neutral citation mechanisms should be employed.
- 7. Technical standards for document structure, identifiers, and metadata should be developed and applied as extensively as possible.
- 8. Data should be distributed in a computer-processable, non-proprietary form in a manner that meets best current practices for the distribution of open government data. That data should represent the definitive documents, not just aggregate, preliminary, or modified forms.
- 9. An active program of research and development should be sponsored by governmental bodies that issue primary legal materials to develop new standards and solutions to challenges presented by the electronic distribution of definitive primary legal materials. Examples include the automated detection and redaction of private personal information in documents.
- 10. An active program of education, training, and documentation should be undertaken to help governmental bodies that issue primary legal materials learn and use best current practices.

Adherence to these principles by governmental bodies is not just good for democracy and justice, it will spur innovation and will encourage:

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- 1. Broader use of legal materials in all parts of our education system, including our law schools.
- 2. Researchers in law schools, universities, and other research institutions to have broader access to bulk data, spurring important research on the functioning of our government.
- 3. Innovation in the legal information market by reducing barriers to entry.
- 4. Savings in the government's own cost of providing these materials through adherence to best current practices.
- 5. Small businesses to understand rules and regulations they must deal with, reducing their costs and increasing their effectiveness.
- 6. Increased foreign trade by making it easier for our foreign partners to understand our laws.
- 7. Better access to justice by making legal information more broadly available to citizens.

How we distribute the raw materials of our democracy is a foundational issue in our system of government. Access to the raw materials of our democracy is a prerequisite for the rule of law and access to justice and makes real the principles of equal protection and due process.

With the Consent of the Co-Convenors of Law. Gov:

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#### THE LAW.GOV WORKSHOPS

Fifteen Law. Gov workshops were held in 2010 beginning at the Stanford Law School in January and ending at the Harvard Law School in June. This open, inclusive process had over 600 attendees and included an in-depth examination of issues such as privacy, technical details of document dissemination, authentication, copyright, and other aspects of the distribution of primary legal materials. Quite a few resources are available on-line for those who wish to learn more about this process:

- The Law.Gov Mailing List
- Video from Law.Gov Workshops on the Internet Archive
- Video from Law.Gov Workshops on YouTube
- Interim Tweetscript Archive
- By The People (September 2009)
- The Raw Materials of Our Democracy (May 2010)
- Original Law.Gov Page

A number of Law. Gov initiatives will be announced this fall, including procedures for the drafting and submission of report materials to relevant authorities, further steps for the National Inventory of Legal Materials, and more details on the creation of reference archives for selected jurisdictions.

## REGISTRY OF RESPONSES

- Letter of Interest Federal Trade Commission May 4, 2010
- <u>Update on Registration of Law.Gov</u> AALL February 19, 2010
- Registration of Law.Gov Department of Justice January 15, 2010
- Registration of Law.Gov American Bar Association January 14, 2010
- Registration of Law.Gov Government Printing Office January 14, 2010
- Registration of Law.Gov Library of Congress January 7, 2010
- Resolution of Endorsement Mid-America Law Library Consortium October 26, 2009 [ scribd | pdf ]
- Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Senator Lieberman October 13, 2009 [scribd | pdf]
- Preliminary Response of the Deputy CTO Andrew McLaughlin September 10, 2009
- Call to Action at the Gov 2.0 Summit Carl Malamud September 10, 2009

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#### SUPPORT FOR THE LAW. GOV PROCESS

In addition to the support from our co-conveners and their host institutions, support for Public.Resource.Org and Law.Gov have been provided by:

<u>Google</u> <u>Mitchell Kapor Foundation</u>

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Bob Young/The Beal Fund

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