The Supreme Court’s decision in Georgia vs. Public.Resource.Org, is a victory for the Copyright ecosystem. The Court’s analysis not only promotes the access to knowledge objectives of copyright social utility, it also denudes the polarized “rightsholder vs public” perception of IP protection which far too often mischaracterizes the role of IP law in contemporary society.

In our democracy the law is “authored” by the public through the judicial and legislative officials authorized to act on its behalf and accordingly, the Court’s decision prevents a distortion of copyright that would effectively divest the public of its “ownership” of the law that it empowers duly appointed officials to coalesce and articulate.

Copyright creators and the public are not mutually exclusive labels. The public enacts laws and embodies those laws in expressive works; the Supreme Court’s decision affirms that any copyright interests manifest in such works – user and creator alike – properly vest in the public communities speaking from the margins that are silenced.