

CAN YOU READ THE LAW?
The Role of the People in Lawmaking and Legal Interpretation
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People all over the world are imprisoned as a matter of law, by law. But I'm not talking about ordinary jails, penitentiaries, reformatories, or "correctional facilities." I am talking about the prison built of laws itself, which is rapidly becoming the whole world, the whole "prison planet."

How is such a prison built? Well, let's start with these questions: are you smart enough, do you have sufficient education, to read a real estate mortgage contract? They are often 12-30 pages long. How about a Court opinion? They are often even longer than that. How about a Congressional Statute? (Those can be very short, like 28 USC 1443, discussed below, or thicker than a phone book, like the Income Tax Code in Title 26). So I repeat, can you read and understand the law? Have you ever really tried?

You may think you can't, or else you just don't want to. But I think you can. And I know you should. Experts and Professors may have persuaded you that the law is too complex, too elaborate, too specialized, and that only top notch lawyers and Judges can really understand "what the law means." In fact, it is a common maxim that, "the law is whatever the judge says it is."

So I'm asking you: do the people, the "subjects" of the law today (just as the people were once to "subjects" of the kings and emperors whose decrees made the law), have any rights to demand their rights under the law, other than that expressly granted by the US Supreme Court and other judges?

Judges are bullies. Sometimes they are really horrible bullies. For example:

Judge Michael Paul Jergins, for 16 years presiding over the 395th Judicial District in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas (just north of Austin), once articulated his power (addressing a woman appearing in his court in a child custody case) with these striking words: "If I told you you had to go running down the street naked before you could ever see your kids again? Would you do it? You can damn well bet you would, because I could make you; I would make you do; and I'm just thinking I will make you do it."

So, I guess that shows that Judges can be vicious bullies, and the lawyers who know how to pull their strings can be vicious bullies too. And yes, Judge Jergins was appointed by a man who worked hard to bully the entire world: namely by former Texas Governor George W. Bush, who later got an even more powerful bully-position in Washington, where he could bomb countries and slaughter tens of thousands with a phone call or a push of the button. Now W. claimed, and I guess most people believe, that he did so “under color of law.”

But is there anything else to law other than what judges say and what Presidents or other bullies claim? Does legal language have any meaning? How do you access the meaning of legal language if you are not a judge or “top notch lawyer?” Is it possible? Well, when the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights were written and adopted, there was not a single licensed attorney involved, for the simple reason that there were no such things as licensed attorneys in those days. And the more licensed attorneys there are, in these United States, the farther we have drifted away from the Constitution; the less our government adheres to it. Because lawyers can apply, construe, and interpret night as day and day as night.

For example: If a law is enacted by Congress in language that would seem to apply to everyone, appearing to be a “law of general application” can the Justices of the Supreme Court construe, interpret, and thereby redefine and reduce that statute to terms that can apply only to circumstances that apply only to a one-in-a-million rarity?

This is exactly what the United States Supreme Court did with what should be two of cornerstones of the judicial system of checks and balances, as between the state and federal systems, namely civil rights removal and civil rights injunctions.

The Litigation Support and Legal Research and Strategy Program of the FCVFC aims to try to empower people and to break free from the prisons of unfair judicial construction and abuse.

So can ordinary people read the law? And if they do, if ordinary people do read the law, and it makes sense to them, do they have any right to demand that their interpretation be adopted by a court? Believe it or not, folks, this is a revolutionary idea.