

THANKS FOR INVITING ME TO SPEAK ON
DEVELOPMENT OF VL FOR VLSS. THANK YOU
ALL FOR COMING.

I'VE GOT SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL
PREPARED FOR YOU TONITE.

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON IT ALL WEEKEND. AND
FOR SOMETIME BEFORE. STAYING UP LATE
NIGHTS AND ALL THAT. I HOPE YOU LIKE IT.

I'M AM GOING TO TRY AND MAKE YOU THINK
SOME THOUGHTS THAT YOU MAY HAVE NEVER
THOUGHT BEFORE. CONSIDER SOME THINGS
YOU MAY HAVE NEVER CONSIDERED BEFORE.

THAT'S REALLY HARD. MAYBE NOT AS HARD
AS MAKING YOU LAUGH, BUT STILL. MIKE
KNOWS I'M NOT A COMIC.

ANYWAY, BACK TO THE DIFFICULTY OF TEACHING YOU SOMETHING NEW. WHAT'S THE AVERAGE AGE HERE? (DON'T ANSWER THAT Q.) WE ALL KNOW THERE'S NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN. NONE OF US ARE MISSING ANYTHING. WE'RE ALL JUST ABOUT AS WISE AS CAN BE ALREADY.

ENOUGH OF THAT. HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW WHAT THE TERM VOLUNTARY LAW MEANS? WITHOUT LOOKING IT UP ON YOUR PHONE. SHOW OF HANDS.

THAT'S FUNNY. (OR, THAT'S ABOUT RIGHT) 'CAUSE I JUST MADE IT UP. JUST A FEW MONTHS AGO. 'CAUSE NOBODY WAS REALLY USING IT. YOU CAN GOOGLE IT. OK, MAYBE SOME VOLUNTARYIST OR OTHER USED THE TERM BEFORE, I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW. I'M NOT CLAIMING TO HAVE INVENTED IT.

I'M ONLY SAYING THAT I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY OWN DEFINITION OF WHAT IT MEANS. IF YOU DON'T PAY ATTENTION, YOU MIGHT NOT GET IT. 'CAUSE I CAN JUST ABOUT GUARANTEE THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD IT BEFORE.

AND IF YOU DON'T GET IT, NOTHING ELSE THAT I SAY TONIGHT IS GOING TO MAKE ANY SENSE TO YOU. AND IF NONE OF IT MAKES SENSE TO YOU, WHAT IS THIS EVENING GOING TO LEAVE YOU WITH?

IN MY CASE, MAYBE AN EXTRA POUND OR TWO AND SOME GAS. A LIGHTER WALLET. WHAT A WASTE.

BUT IF YOU GET IT, I PROMISE THAT THIS IDEA WILL GET UNDER YOUR SKIN. MAKE YOU THINK. MAYBE, JUST MAYBE START GIVING YOU A LITTLE HOPE. A DIFFERENT KIND OF LITTLE HOPE.

NOT THE KIND OF LITTLE HOPE THAT EMPIRES GIVE TO THEIR SUBJECTS, TO KEEP THEM IN LINE. NOT THE KIND OF LITTLE HOPE THAT THE FARMER GIVES TO HIS SWINE, WHILE FATTENING THEM FOR SLAUGHTER.

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE OTHER KIND OF LITTLE HOPE. THE MUSTARD-SEED KIND OF HOPE. THE DNA KIND OF HOPE.

THE KIND OF HOPE THAT SEEMS TINY AND INSIGNIFICANT, BUT CONTAINS THE PATTERN OF SOMETHING MUCH GREATER.

GREAT ENOUGH TO TRANSFORM HUMAN SOCIETY INTO SOMETHING BETTER. THAT'S PRETTY INCREDIBLE, ISN'T IT?

AND DON'T WORRY. EVERYTHING I TALK ABOUT IS PERFECTLY PEACEFUL. PERFECTLY LEGAL. PERFECTLY CALM AND REASONABLE.

PERFECTLY PROTECTED BY THE NATURAL RIGHT OF FREE EXPRESSION, THAT EVEN THE US CONSTITUTION ACKNOWLEDGES, THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF JUDGES IN THIS COUNTRY STILL RESPECT.

NOTHING NEEDS TO BE OVERTHROWN.

YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, WHO THE HELL DOES THAT GUY THINK HE IS?! I'M NOBODY. I HAVE NO QUALIFICATIONS. I'M NOBODY BUT THE MESSENGER OF AN IDEA.

I'M THE GUY THAT THE UNIVERSE CONSPIRED TO BRING YOU THE MESSAGE THAT I'M BRINGING TONIGHT. THAT'S ALL I AM.

SO TONITE I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY DEFINITION OF VOLUNTARY LAW. AND THEN, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU MY DEFINITION OF VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES. THAT'S ANOTHER NEW TERM. AFTER THAT, I'M GOING TO TALK ABOUT HOW WE GET TO PHASE ONE. THAT'S THE TITLE OF THIS TALK, "DEVELOPMENT OF VOLUNTARY LAW." AND THEN, I'M GOING TO TAKE QUESTIONS.

BY 'PHASE ONE" I MEAN JUST HAVING VOLUNTARY LAW EXIST IN A USEFUL FORM. 'CAUSE WE CAN'T HAVE VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES UNTIL A COMPREHENSIVE BODY OF VOLUNTARY LAW EXISTS. THAT'S KINDA THE WHOLE POINT.

HOW WE GET FROM HAVING VOLUNTARY LAW, TO HAVING VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES, IS A HUGE TOPIC; A VERY INTERESTING TOPIC; A VERY IMPORTANT TOPIC. BUT A TOPIC MUCH TOO LARGE FOR MY LITTLE TALK TONITE.

BEFORE WE GET TO ALL THAT, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE TEST. A TEST OF WHAT KIND OF AUDIENCE YOU ARE.

OK, HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT STATELESS SOCIETY (SOME CALL ANARCHY) AND ARE AT LEAST OPEN TO THE POSSIBILITY, IF NOT TOTALLY CONVINCED BY THE IDEA? SHOW OF HANDS, PLEASE.

OK, HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE THOUGHT ABOUT STATELESS SOCIETY, AND ARE PRETTY SURE IT IS A DUMB IDEA, OR MAYBE TO BE NICER, "NICE IN THEORY" BUT IMPRACTICAL?

OK, HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT STATELESS SOCIETY AND HAVE NO CLUE WHAT I AM TALKING ABOUT?

HOW MANY HAVEN'T RAISED THEIR HAND YET?

OK, THAT'S PRETTY GOOD. THIS IS NOT YOUR TYPICAL GROUP. THIS IS THE KARL HESS CLUB!

OK, NOW JUST A FEW MORE QUESTIONS. TRUE OR FALSE. I'M GOING TO MAKE A COUPLE OF STATEMENTS, AND SEE HOW MANY OF YOU THINK THESE STATEMENTS ARE TRUE.

OK. "DEMOCRACY IS TWO WOLVES AND A LAMB VOTING ON WHAT'S FOR DINNER" (HL MENKEN). HOW MANY THINK IT'S MORE TRUE THAN FALSE?

OK, SECOND STATEMENT. "THE STATE IS WHAT RESULTS FROM ELEVATING THIEVES IN PROPORTION TO THEIR CLEVERNESS AT THE ART OF THIEVING." HOW MANY THINK IT'S MORE TRUE THAN FALSE?

THAT'S PRETTY IMPRESSIVE. I'M GETTING PRETTY EXCITED. THIS IS A VERY COOL CROWD. THIS IS VERY FERTILE GROUND FOR SEEDS OF LIBERTY.

DID YOU HEAR THAT? DO YOU FEEL THE INCREDIBLE UNIQUENESS OF WHAT WE ARE SHARING TONIGHT? DO YOU SENSE THE HISTORIC POSSIBILITIES? MAYBE IT JUST FEELS LIKE ANOTHER MEETING OF THE KARL HESS CLUB. AND THAT IT IS.

LET ME TELL YOU A LITTLE STORY. IT'S JUST FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE. IT MIGHT HELP YOU SEE WHY I FEEL THE WAY I DO, AND MAYBE SHARE THE FEELING A LITTLE.

I USED TO LIVE IN NORTHERN CALI. SF BAY AREA. I LIKE IT UP THERE. GOOD CLIMATE, GOOD AIR, INTERESTING PEOPLE. BUT THEY REALLY BELIEVE IN GOVERNMENT, FOR THE MOST PART.

AND IT FELT LIKE KIND OF A POLITICALLY CORRECT PLACE. TOO MANY PEOPLE AREN'T REALLY OPEN TO HAVING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT UNORTHODOX POLITICAL VIEWS. IT WAS KIND OF DISCOURAGING, BEING A LIBERTARIAN THINKER.

AND THEN I MOVED DOWN HERE, BECAUSE I WAS OFFERED A JOB I FELT I COULDN'T REFUSE. IT WAS WITH RELUCTANCE. I THOUGHT OF SOUTHERN CALI AS A SORT OF AWFUL, POLLUTED PLACE, WITH THEME PARKS.

BUT LET ME TELL YOU, I FELT A DIFFERENCE RIGHT AWAY. I COULD EXPRESS MY OPINIONS TO MORE PEOPLE, WITHOUT BEING SHUNNED OR PERSONALLY DISLIKED FOR EXPRESSING A DIFFERENT OPINION. EVEN BY PEOPLE WITH VERY DIFFERENT VIEWS ON POLITICS OR POLITICAL THEORY.

I MET MORE LIBERTARIANS. IT FELT LIKE A MORE OPEN-MINDED KIND OF PLACE.

MY POINT IS, THIS IS A SPECIAL KIND OF PLACE. THERE IS, OR CAN BE, AN EASIER EXCHANGE AND GROWTH OF DIFFERENT IDEAS HERE. MAYBE THERE'S NO PLACE QUITE LIKE SOUTHERN CALI, AS A PLACE WHERE NEW IDEAS CAN NOT ONLY BE DEVELOPED AND EXCHANGED, BUT SPREAD TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

NOT SAYING ITS PARADISE HERE. LET'S JUST APPRECIATE WHAT WE HAVE, AND MAKE SOMETHING OF IT. IT'S UP TO US TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

LITTLE MEETINGS LIKE THIS ARE PART OF IT. WE'RE NOT JUST COMMISERATING OVER THE SLOW DEATH OF LIBERTY. WE CAN DO SOMETHING TO REVIVE LIBERTY. TO BORROW A PHRASE, YES WE CAN! AND WE CAN DO IT IN OUR OWN, UNIQUE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WAY.

I'M AM TRYING TO SAY THAT I AM HERE TO DO, NOT JUST TO TALK. I HOPE YOU LISTEN, AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO, TOO.

SO I HAVE A NEAT LITTLE PROJECT TO PRESENT TO YOU. IT'S ABOUT BRINGING VOLUNTARY LAW INTO THE WORLD, LIKE SOMETHING THAT HAS NEVER EXISTED BEFORE.

SO WHAT IS VOLUNTARY LAW?

VL IS A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF RULES FOR PEACEFULLY RESOLVING EVERY KIND OF DISPUTE THAT PERSONS CAN HAVE.

VL IS COMPREHENSIVE ENOUGH TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE THE NEED TO USE LAWS MADE BY GOVERNMENTS BASED ON TERRITORIAL MONOPOLIES.

VL COMPLIES WITH MORAL PRECEPTS OF NATURAL LAW. UNDER THE NON-AGGRESSION PRINCIPLE, VL CANNOT PERMIT ANY MONOPOLY ON THE MAKING OR ENFORCEMENT OF LAW.

UNDER THE EQUALITY PRINCIPLE, THE LAW MUST PROVIDE EQUAL OUTCOMES TO EQUALLY SITUATED PERSONS, REGARDLESS OF A PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS RACE, GENDER, BELIEFS, ETC.

BASICALLY, THE ONLY PERMISSIBLE DISTINCTION IN APPLICATION OF VL IS BETWEEN RATIONAL PERSONS AND PERSONS WHO ARE INCAPABLE OF REASON.

VL IS DESIGNED FOR RADICAL ANTI-STATISM. ANY LAW IMPOSED BY A STATE CAN BE, SHOULD BE, AND WILL BE A NULLITY IN VL FORUMS.

THERE WILL BE NO REASON FOR A VL FORUM TO CONSIDER GOVERNMENT LAWS, AND VICE VERSA.

SO, VL IS LAW THAT CANNOT IMPOSED ON ANYONE INVOLUNTARILY. IT IS RECOGNIZED AS EFFECTIVE ONLY WHEN VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED BY EACH INDIVIDUAL AGAINST WHOM IT IS ENFORCED.

CONSEQUENTLY, VL IS NOT EFFECTIVE UNTIL A COMMUNITY OF PEOPLE HAVE ADOPTED IT.

BECAUSE IT IS VOLUNTARY, TO ATTRACT MORE PEOPLE, ALTERNATIVE LAWS SHOULD BE PROVIDED. IN A WORLD IN WHICH ONLY VOLUNTARY LAW EXISTS, AND GOVERNMENTS ARE NO MORE, THERE MUST BE ALTERNATIVE VLs, TO ACCOMMODATE DIFFERENT MORAL AND CULTURAL PREFERENCES.

SO THERE IS NOT JUST ONE VOLUNTARY LAW. THERE IS A MATRIX OF ALTERNATIVE LAWS. SOMETHING I LIKE TO CALL THE HIGHER ARCHY.

INDIVIDUALS CAN PICK THE LAWS THEY PREFER FROM THIS MATRIX. THE MATRIX IS USEFUL BECAUSE IT ORGANIZES THE LAW SO THAT EVERYBODY CAN QUICKLY UNDERSTAND WHAT LAWS ARE ADOPTED BY OTHERS, AND HOW THEIR OWN CHOICES RELATE TO CHOICES MADE BY OTHERS.

THE MATRIX IS INFINITELY ACCOMODATING AND INCLUDES EVERY LAW CONSISTENT WITH BASIC PRINCIPLES OF VL, FOR WHICH THERE IS A DEMAND. A SORT OF FREE MARKET OF LAWS.

A SET OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALL ADOPTED THE SAME VL ARE CALLED A VLS. MULTIPLE VLSs CAN COEXIST, JUST AS MULTIPLE STATES COEXIST.

FORMATION OF VLSs FOLLOWS THE "LAW FIRST" MODEL. INSTEAD OF THE COMMUNITY FORMING, AND THEN IMPOSING A LAW ON ITS MEMBERS: THE LAW IS DEVELOPED FIRST, AND A COMMUNITY FORMS AROUND IT.

THE "LAW FIRST" MODEL IS A NECESSARY ASPECT OF VOLUNTARY LAW. WITHOUT IT, THE LAW CANNOT BE VOLUNTARY.

ALSO, THERE CAN BE NO JUDGE-MADE (COMMON) LAW. JUDGE-MADE LAW IS IMPOSED. JUDICIAL OPINIONS CAN BE PERSUASIVE BUT NOT BINDING.

BECAUSE WE WANT VL TO BE USEFUL, IT NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO HANDLE DISPUTES BETWEEN PEOPLE BELONGING TO DIFFERENT VLSs. SO THE MATRIX SHOULD INCLUDE CONFLICT OF LAW RULES.

CoL RULES ARE A CRITICAL FEATURE OF VL. I CAN'T GO INTO MUCH DETAIL IN THIS LITTLE TALK. THE BASIC PRINCIPLES ARE: (A) THE PARTIES' RESPECTIVE CHOICES OF LAW AND THE TIMES AT WHICH THEY MADE THOSE CHOISES ARE THE PREDOMINDATE FACTORS IN CHOICE OF LAW; AND (B) GENERALLY, A PARTY DEFENDING A CLAIM WILL BE JUDGED UNDER THE LAW THAT HE OR SHE HAS VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED BEFOREHAND.

A PROTOTYPE OF UNIVERSAL CONFLICT OF LAW RULES HAS BEEN PUBLISHED AT WWW.VLDA.ORG. IT IS AWAITING COMMENTS.

SO HOW CAN VL BE DEVELOPED?

FINALLY, I HAVE GOTTEN AROUND TO TALKING ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF VL, WHAT THIS TALK IS SUPPOSED TO BE ABOUT. HERE IS WHERE I MENTION OPEN-SOURCE. HOLD THAT THOUGHT FOR A MOMENT. FIRST I WANT TO TALK ABOUT STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT.

WE ARE AT THE FIRST STAGE NOW, THE CONCEPT STAGE. THE BASIC CONCEPT IS PRETTY WELL DEVELOPED, AND CoL RULES HAVE ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN.

THE NEXT STAGE WILL BE TO COMPLETE AN OUTLINE OF THE MATRIX, THE HIGHER ARCHY. A VERY SKETCHY OUTLINE IS JUST STARTED OVER AT VLDA.ORG.

AFTER THAT, BEGIN FILLING IN THE MATRIX BY WRITING DRAFT LAWS AND CROSS-REFERENCING THEM TO THE MATRIX. EXTEND THE MATRIX, TRIM IT, REARRANGE IT.

PUBLISH THE DRAFT. TAKE COMMENTS AND CRITICISM. REFINE AND POLISH UNTIL THERE IS AT LEAST ONE VL SYSTEM (E.G., COLUMN OF THE MATRIX) THAT IS READY FOR ADOPTION.

IT IS READY WHEN PEOPLE INDIVIDUALLY DECIDE IT IS READY FOR THEIR USE, AND ADOPT IT. LAW IS ADOPTED BY PUBLIC DECLARATION, USUALLY BY REGISTERING A CHOICE IN A PUBLIC REGISTRY.

SECURE PUBLIC REGISTRIES WILL SPRING INTO EXISTENCE WHEN THERE IS DEMAND FOR THEIR SERVICES.

CONSEQUENTLY, VL HAS A COMMUNITY-SELECTED DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY. SOME COMMUNITIES MAY PREFER MORE AMBIGUITY THAN OTHERS.

WHEN AT LEAST ONE SYSTEM IS READY FOR ADOPTION, PUBLISH AND PROMOTE IT. DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES CAN DEVELOP AND PROMOTE DIFFERENT VOLUNTARY LAWS.

GROUPS LIKE VLDA CAN WORK TO ORGANIZE AND HARMONIZE VLs WRITTEN BY OTHERS.

AS PEOPLE ADOPT VL, SERVICE PROVIDERS ARISE TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES. PHASE 2 STARTS, WHICH IS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THIS LITTLE TALK.

IN PHASE 2, VL IS CHANGED VERY SLOWLY. VERY UNLIKE THE MESS OF STATE MADE LAW. COMMUNITIES "UPGRADE" TO NEW LAWS BY INDIVIDUAL ADOPTION.

EACH UPGRADE SPLITS THE COMMUNITY. THEREFORE, THE PACE OF CHANGE WILL BE RELATIVELY SLOW IN ESTABLISHED VLSs. PERHAPS AT A PACE SIMILAR TO OPERATING SYSTEM UPGRADES FOR COMPUTERS.

MOST REVISIONS WILL OCCUR BEFORE THE VL IS WIDELY ADOPTED.

NOW ABOUT OPEN SOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF VL LAW. WE CAN DRAW USEFUL PARALLELS TO OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT OR STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT.

NOBODY IS GOING TO PAY YOU TO WRITE VOLUNTARY LAW, BECAUSE LAW HAS NO ECONOMIC VALUE PER SE. HOWEVER, A DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF V LAW CAN BE OF GREAT ECONOMIC VALUE ONCE ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE VOLUNTARILY ADOPTED IT.

WISE AND FORWARD THINKING PEOPLE WILL WRITE VOLUNTARY LAW, IN A COMPETITIVE AND COLLABORATIVE FASHION. BECAUSE HAVING A REPUTATION AS A PERSON WHO WRITES GREAT LAWS AND WORKS WELL WITH OTHERS CAN BE OF GREAT ECONOMIC VALUE.

PARTICIPATING IN VOLUNTARY LAW DEVELOPMENT IS HOW PEOPLE INTERESTED IN MAKING A CAREER OF PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES CAN ESTABLISH THEIR REPUTATIONS.

SO THERE CAN BE AN ECONOMIC INCENTIVE TO DEVELOP SUPERIOR VOLUNTARY LAWS. ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS A BELIEF THAT VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES WILL FORM AROUND GOOD LAWS, AND WILL BE IN NEED OF LEGAL SERVICES.

I CONFESS THAT IS NOT MY INCENTIVE RIGHT NOW. I CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT VLSs WILL GROW VERY LARGE IN MY LIFETIME. BUT I WOULD BE THE FIRST TO FORSAKE MY CAREER AS A LAWYER IN A GOVERNMENTAL LEGAL SYSTEM, IF I COULD MAKE A LIVING PROVIDING LEGAL SERVICES TO VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES.

NO – I AM NOT DOING THIS TO ENHANCE MY CAREER. I'M DOING IT OUT OF A SENSE OF PERSONAL DESTINY. IT'S THE BEST THING I CAN THINK OF TO DO WITH MY LIFE, FOR NOW.

SO I AM HAPPY TO DO THIS ALONE, AND CAN STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS. THE MANY GREAT PHILOSOPHERS OUT THERE THAT HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED STRUCTURES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT IN VOLUNTARYIST SOCIETIES.

SO FAR AS WRITING LAW ALONE GOES, ONE PERSON -- DAVID DUDELY FIELD -- WROTE THE 'FIELD CODE' THAT BECAME THE BASIS OF CALIFORNIA LAW.

I'M NOT A BIG FAN OF FIELD. HE WAS A HOBBSIAN THAT BELIEVED IN SOVEREIGNTY OF THE STATE. IN MID-19TH CENTURY, HE WROTE AN OUTLINE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW THAT PRESAGED IL AS IT EXISTS TODAY, IN ADDITION TO WRITING CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND PROCEDURAL CODES CODIFYING THE COMMON LAW.

THESE CODES WERE PRETTY THIN. THE ORIGINAL CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE, BASED ON THE FIELD CODE, IS ONLY 170 PAGES, INCLUDING NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES.

BUT IT STILL CONTAINS A LOT OF NONSENSE THAT WON'T BE NEEDED IN VOLUNTARY LAW.

VOLUNTARY LAW WILL BE COMPREHENSIVE. BUT IT WILL ALSO BE SHORT AND TO THE POINT. IF WELL WRITTEN, VL WILL BE CONCISE AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND.

VL IS SOMETHING THAT THE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE FUTURE WILL BE ABLE TO FULLY COMPREHEND IN A SEMESTER, AT A THEORETICAL LEVEL. BECAUSE THAT'S THE NATURE OF GOOD LAW.

THE FACT IS, NOT UNLIKE DAVID DUDELY FIELD, AT THE MOMENT THE VLDA IS AN ASSOCIATION OF ONE. IT'S A DIALOG I'M HAVING WITH MYSELF, BUT OPENLY ON THE INTERNET. THAT'S NOT BAD.

BUT IT COULD BE SO MUCH MORE. I'D LIKE IT TO BE MORE. I'M HERE TONITE TALKING ABOUT IT SO IT CAN BE MORE.

THE MORE PEOPLE PRODUCTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN DEVELOPING VOLUNTARY LAW, THE BETTER THE OUTCOME WILL BE.

THE SOONER WE WILL GET TO THE POINT OF HAVING A CODE OF LAW GOOD ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO START MAKING USE OF IT. I WANT TO GET THERE SOONER. I WANT TO SEE THE PROMISED LAND, IF NOT ENTER INTO IT.

SO IF THERE'S ANYBODY HERE THAT CAN HELP THIS ALONG, I URGE YOU TO GET INVOLVED.

THERE IS A LOT OF WORK FOR PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT SKILLS: WRITERS, LAWYERS,

EDITORS, COMMENTATORS, WEBSITE ADMINISTRATORS, PROMOTORS, TRANSLATORS, EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS, AND MORE.

COULD WE START WITH A CORE GROUP OF PEOPLE RIGHT HERE IN SOCAL? IT DOESN'T REQUIRE A LOT OF MONEY. JUST TIME AND ATTENTION.

VLDA IS NOT GOING TO PUBLISH LAWS WILLY-NILLY. IT WILL ORGANIZE SUBMISSIONS AND EDIT THEM FOR QUALITY. THIS IS SIMILAR TO QUALITY CONTROL IN OPEN SOURCE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT. QUALITY IS CRITICAL FOR PRACTICALITY AND ACCEPTABILITY.

THE GOAL IS ALSO TO PUBLISH AS WIDE A RANGE OF LAWS AS POSSIBLE. ALSO, TO CONNECT, VIA WELL-DRAFTED CONFLICT OF LAWS, AS MANY DIFFERENT VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES AS POSSIBLE.

NOTHING THAT REASONABLY COMPLIES WITH THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF VOLUNTARY LAW WILL BE REFUSED. NOT EVEN IF IT SEEMS DISTASTFUL.

VLDA SEEKS TO BE MARKET-DRIVEN. IT WILL FOCUS FIRST ON WRITING THE LAWS THAT ARE MOST IN DEMAND BY VOLUNTARYISTS AND AGORISTS.

VLDA WILL NOT STOP UNTIL COMPREHESIVE, ALTERNATIVE LEGAL SYSTEMS ARE FULLY DEVELOPED AND HARMONIZED FOR EVERY MAJOR VARIATION OF MORAL PREFERENCE.

IF THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, GREATER THINGS MAY FOLLOW.

IF STATELESS SOCIETY IS EVER TO TRIUMPH OVER THE STATE, IT WILL BE VIA THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUPERIOR ECONOMIC POWER BY DISTRIBUTED COMMUNITIES WITH SOPHISTICATED TRADING RELATIONSHIPS AND STABLE ALTERNATIVE LEGAL SYSTEMS, COUPLED WITH THE INEVITABLE DECLINE OF SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS BASED ON THE COERCIVE POWER OF SOCIAL ELITES.

THE EVOLUTIONARY CANON OF VOLUNTARY LAW HAS THE POTENTIAL TO NEGATE SOCIAL DIVISIONS, BY ACCOMMODATING A WIDE VARIETY OF NON-SOCIOPATHIC MORAL PREFERENCES, INSTEAD OF IMPOSING ONE MORAL PREFERENCE ON EVERYONE. THE RESULTING SOCIAL UNITY MINIMIZES WASTE AND SOCIAL DISRUPTION CAUSED BY POLITICAL BATTLES OVER THE RIGHT TO IMPOSE ONE MORAL PREFERENCE ON OTHERS.

MEANWHILE, A MARKET-DRIVEN LEVEL OF SPECIFICITY AND SOPHISTICATION OF VOLUNTARY LAW SHOULD FACILITATE COMPLEX TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES, ENABLING HIGH DEGREES OF LABOR SPECIALIZATION.

NEW, DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES MAY ENABLE NETWORKS OF VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES OPERATING UNDER ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT PRINCIPLES FOR ALLOCATION OF SCARCE RESOURCES TO DEVELOP SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGIES CAPABLE OF BEING SECURED AGAINST VIOLENT EXPROPRIATION BY STATES AND THEIR ANTIQUATED WEALTH-DESTROYING INSTITUTIONS.

THUS, INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ATTRACTED TO VOLUNTARY LAW SOCIETIES TO ENJOY ACCESS TO A QUALITY OF LIFE, SERVICES, AND TECHNOLOGIES AS THESE THINGS BECOME OF INCREASINGLY POORER QUALITY FOR THE SUBJECTS OF STATE.

ONCE A CERTAIN TIPPING POINT IS REACHED,
THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS STATELESSNESS
WILL BECOME UNSTOPPABLE.

TO THE SKEPTICS, SUCH VISIONS ARE MERELY
IMPRACTICAL DREAMS OF A FAR DISTANT OR
UNACHIEVABLE WORLD.

VOLUNTARY LAW DEVELOPMENT MAY
THEREFORE SEEM TO BE MERELY AN
ACADEMIC EXERCISE, EVEN IF HOPEFULLY
DIRECTED TO A PRACTICAL AND SOCIALLY
BENEFICIAL GOAL.

WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF THIS EXERCISE,
IT IS NONETHELESS WORTHY OF OUR ENERGIES;
IT IS AN EXPERIMENT DIRECTED TOWARDS
DEMONSTRATING THE VENERABLE TRUTHS
THAT THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD,
AND JUST WORDS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.

ARE THERE ANY QUESTIONS?