

Streamlining Justice

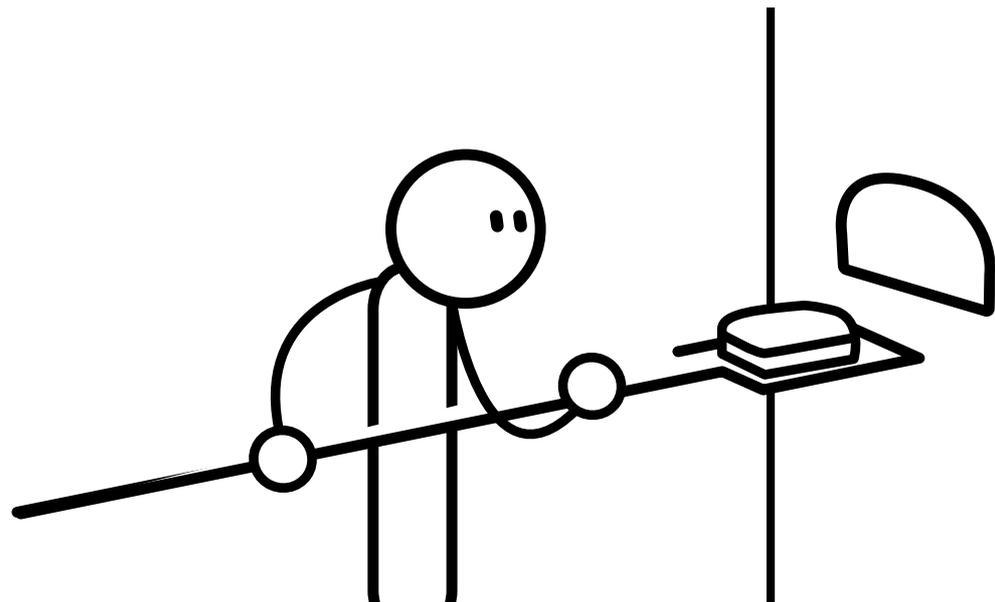
Many people think that innovation is only to be found in science and technology. *Au contraire*. Just take a look at the field of law, for instance. For millennia, human beings have been ingeniously adapting the technology of governing to suit the demands of their evolving societies. More effective social control means a superior competitive edge. Would you adopt any of these revolutionary legal inventions from history? Find out here the civilizations that did.

Chip Away at Bad Debts

Do your customers feign ignorance when you knock on their door for their unpaid bills? Try this approach. Engrave the contract in clay, cover it with a second layer of clay, seal it and bake. The contents are protected, and if ever your debtors need their memories jogged a bit, especially before a court, just crack open the outer layer and produce the evidence. It's a sure-fire way to protect your interests. (First used by the Sumerians 3,000 years before the Common Era, thousands of clay tablets have come down to us)

Get the Dirty Work Done for You

Alas, poor Lord! You're travelling all year round as judge and peacemaker, but still your subjects have to wait for years to obtain justice? Don't get down on yourself. Get a reeve¹. He'll take your laws and enforce them in your name. But that's not all. Use him to collect taxes or even draft soldiers for your army. This way, if the rabble revolts, it won't be



your head that will roll. (Advocated, for example, by the Egyptian Pharaohs and Medieval European Kings)

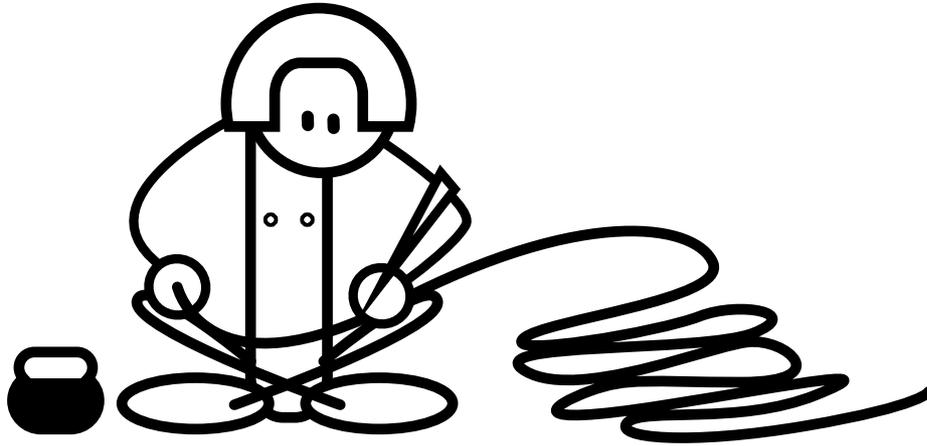
Please Refer to Clause II, Subsection B

Perfect for rulers and executives. Why trust your underlings to interpret the law? Give them their instructions in "Written Law". These rules work for you even in your absence and persist for generations after you've expired. You gi-

ve the orders, and your orders give you immortality. A note of caution though: these rules can become troublesome to modify should you change your mind; "Rule of Law" trumps a King. (Some of its first proponents: the Egyptians and Sumerians)

Literally Anything can be Privatised

Fed up with paying your taxes under duress while never collecting on your own



accounts receivable? Purchase a little “Private Law”. The Empire will send over a Roman legion to protect *your* interests and collect on *your* debts. Now there’s an innovation that could conquer the world. (Installed during the Roman Empire, this invention is now omnipresent)

Avoid Frustration: Get Organised

Are you lost in maze of legal contradictions? Is your head spinning from judgments for and against you in identical cases? If so, try arranging your laws into a single legal system. From now on, all your measures will be organised in a systematic way. No more contradictory judgments, always the same procedures and institutions, and only one law (in the broad sense of the term) will prevail. Legal disclaimer: Not guaranteed for effec-

tiveness. (Among the earliest adopters: the Incans and 17th century Europe)

Taking down the Dictator

Your neighbour is an ex-warlord who escaped prosecution in his country, and your own courts can’t prosecute foreign nationals for crimes committed abroad. What do you do? Stick it to them with an upgrade of your own traditional territorial law. Just follow the principle of universal jurisdiction and prosecute any crime against humanity. Regardless of the country – and whether it is piracy, slave trade, torture, aircraft hijacking, genocide, war crimes, or terrorism – no international criminal will find a safe haven again. (First appeared in 20th century international law)

Rationalise your Justice Ministry’s Budget

Having a tough time finding laws that work for everyone? Are you tired of chasing down transgressors? Then let society do the work for you with the all-new “Soft Law”. Just publish a code of conduct and people will adhere to it most of the time. Then let the community deal with those who don’t.

Best of all, it’s practically free: no more monitoring, enforcement, courts, and best of all, no lawyers’ fees! Soft law comes in a variety of flavours: “codes of conduct”, “guidelines”, “communications”, “best practices”, “resolutions” and “expert proposals”. Choose one to suit your tastes. (First appeared in the EU and in 20th century international law)

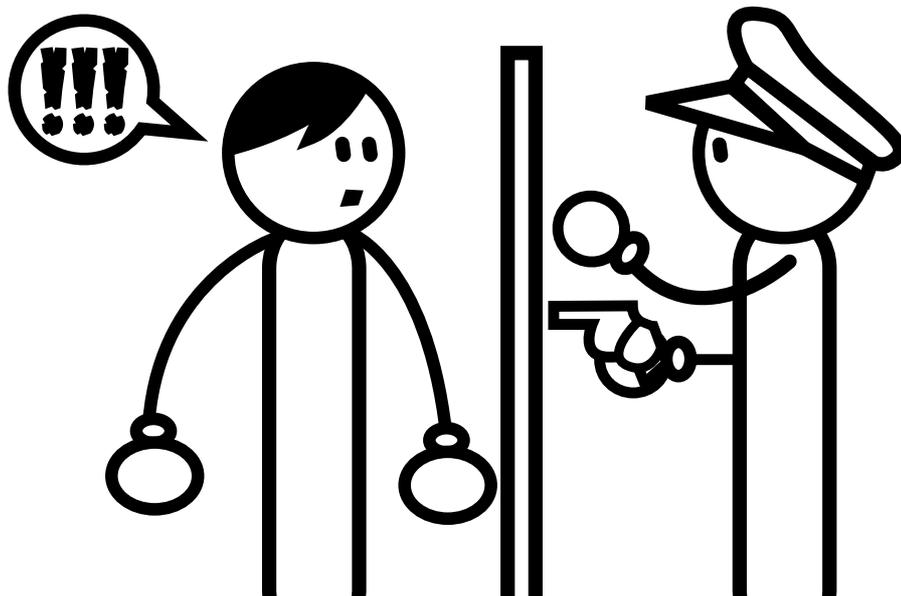
Leonhard Voltmer/EURAC

Institute for Minority Rights

Institute for Studies on Federalism and

Regionalism

leonhard.voltmer@eurac.edu



¹ A local administrative agent of an Anglo-Saxon king (Vogt/balivo).