

Commentaries on the Rule of Law

It will be of little avail to the people, that the laws are made by men of their own choice, if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood; if they be repealed or revised before they are promulgated, or undergo such incessant changes that no man, who knows what the law is today, can guess what it will be tomorrow.

James Madison, Feb. 27, 1788

As a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights.

*James Madison
National Gazette, March 29, 1792*

The more laws, the less justice.

*Marcus Tullius Cicero
Roman Lawyer, Writer, Scholar, Orator, and Statesman
106 BC-43 BC*

Good people don't need laws to tell them to act responsibly and bad people will find a way around the laws.

Plato

A law is valuable not because it is law, but because there is right in it.

Henry Ward Beecher

The only stable state is the one in which all men are equal before the law.

Aristotle

If you have 10,000 regulations you destroy all respect for law.

Winston Churchill

The law in the hands of the unskilled and the unknowing is a terrifying thing.

John Ramsey commenting on the police investigation of the murder of his daughter, Jon Benet

One of the greatest delusions in the world is the hope that the evils in this world are to be cured by legislation.

Thomas Breckett Reed

There is no cruder tyranny than that which is perpetuated under the shield of law and in the name of justice.

Montesquieu 1689-1755

The number of problems that can be solved by passing a new law is virtually zero.
The number of problems caused by existing laws is virtually infinite.
The solution to most of our current problems is obvious.

Charles E. Corry, Ph.D.