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January 26, 2018

Anita Ramasastry, President  
Uniform Law Commission  
111 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 1010  
Chicago, Illinois 60602

RE: Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act ("UELMA")

Dear President Ramasastry:

As Chair of its Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, I am writing on behalf of the American Bar Association in support of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act ("UELMA"), a uniform state law addressing authentication, access and preservation of official state electronic legal information.

Our Standing Committee is the second-oldest ABA entity, celebrating a relationship of almost 90 years with the Law Library of Congress. Because the Standing Committee is committed to advancing the mission of the Law Library of Congress and its need to provide current, authenticated and accurate legal information, we enthusiastically supported the ABA House of Delegates resolution at its 2012 Midyear Meeting approving UELMA.

As state, territorial and local governments increasingly publish legal and legislative materials online, the magnitude and complexity of issues related to ensuring the reliability and accuracy of online legal material have come to light. UELMA brings those issues into focus and provides a consistent, technology-neutral approach that allows the various jurisdictions to tailor solutions addressing the problems that arise when official legal materials are offered only online. UELMA also offers guidance on the preservation of electronic legal materials and requires accessibility into the future.

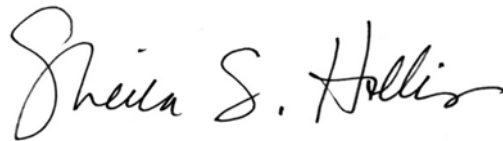
Providing trustworthy legal and legislative information is a major concern to the Law Library of Congress as well as to courts, legal researchers, other law libraries, historians, commercial suppliers and the public. Enactment of UELMA throughout the nation will harmonize the authentication of official online legal material across jurisdictions by providing a basic framework that offers entities and consumers of legal information with a means to confirm the trustworthiness of the electronic material they are accessing.

In the six years since UELMA was approved by the ABA House of Delegates, technological advancements have made UELMA enactment not only easier and less expensive than ever before, but essential to our legal system. A number of states, including Minnesota and Washington, DC, have developed low- or no-cost solutions to meet UELMA's authentication requirements.

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As of January 2018, sixteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted UELMA. As more and more states and territories are working to address the issues of authentication, access, and preservation of official state electronic legal information, the ABA Standing Committee of the Law Library of Congress encourages those states and territories that have not already done so to adopt UELMA.

Sincerely yours,  
ABA Standing Committee  
on the Law Library of Congress

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila S. Hollis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

SHEILA SLOCUM HOLLIS  
Chair

cc: Liza I. Karsai, Executive Director, ULC  
Katie Robinson, Legislative Program Director, ULC  
Brian Lewis, Legislative Counsel, ULC  
Michele Timmons, Chair, ULC UELMA Enactment Committee  
Gregory R. Lambert, President, American Association of Law Libraries