

Legislative Advocacy Training 2012
Advocating for UELMA in Your State
Emily Feltren, Michele Finerty, Elizabeth Holland
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By volunteering to work for the enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) in your state, you'll learn how to be an effective legislative advocate. Remember, legislative advocates are made, not born!

Use the following tips to start advocating for UELMA in your state:

- **Know the Issue.** Read and familiarize yourself with UELMA. You'll find numerous links to information about the Act on the back of this handout.
- **Connect.** Contact Emily Feltren and Elizabeth Holland in the GRO. They'll connect you with any officials, legislators or individuals who have taken the lead in your state.
- **Get what you need.** The GRO will request informational packets from the Uniform Law Commission be sent to you.
- **Reach out.** Your allies can help! Contact your state's uniform law commissioner, chairs of chapter government relations committees, or other state library associations for help.
- **Meet.** Arrange a meeting with the contacts you have. Formulate questions to ask and get answers face to face.
- **Help out.** If a bill has not yet been written, offer to assist your state contact in recruiting sponsors or co-sponsors.
- **Track it.** Follow the bill's progress throughout the legislative process.
- **Speak up.** Draft testimony or letters in support of the bill. Again, the GRO will have information to guide you.

Remember, the paths to UELMA differ from state to state. In Connecticut, the state uniform law commissioner first reached out to AALL, while in Colorado (the first state to enact UELMA), Emily Feltren connected Susan Nevelow Mart to representatives in the Uniform Law Commission and state Senate. California's group of law librarians called upon the state's legislative counsel because she had been a member of the ULC's Committee to Draft UELMA and learned that there was already a bill with a sponsor!

With the help of the GRO and its resources, advocating for UELMA can be a fun and rewarding way to support access to official, authentic online legal information while making a difference in your state.

UELMA Links

Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (Final Text): <http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/2011Oct-UniformElectronicLegalMaterialAct-Final.pdf>

UELMA Summary: <http://www.uniformlaws.org/ActSummary.aspx?title=Electronic%20Legal%20Material%20Act>

AALL's FAQs: <http://aallnet.org/main-menu/Advocacy/aallwash/Advocacy-Toolkit/7-Uniform-Electronic-Legal-Material-Act/UELMAFAQ.pdf>

UELMA: Why States Should Adopt the Act:

<http://www.uniformlaws.org/shared/docs/UELMA%20Why%20States%20Should%20Adopt.doc>

Law Librarians Push for the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act, The Recorder, Feb. 2012:

<http://www.law.com/jsp/lawtechnologynews/PubArticleLTN.jsp?id=1202542565023&slreturn=1>

AALL Endorsement Letter:

http://www.uniformlaws.org/Shared/Docs/UELMA/AALL%20Letter%20of%20Support_DarcyKirk.pdf

Uniform Law Commission Electronic Legal Material Committee Page (includes links to texts of drafts, reports, etc.): <http://www.uniformlaws.org/Committee.aspx?title=Electronic%20Legal%20Material%20Act>

Public Access to Official State Statutory Material Online (Council of State Governments):

<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/content/capitol-research-public-access-official-state-statutory-material-online>

Special Report: Public Access to Official State Statutory Material Online, Council of State Governments:

http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/State_Statutes.pdf

Minnesota Historical Association: Document on Authentication:

<http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/legislativerecords/authentication.htm>

Preserving State Government Digital Information UELMA; Exploring Authentication Options, White Paper, Nov. 2011:

http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/legislativerecords/docs_pdfs/UELMA_DC_11_4_2011.pdf

Opening Government's Official Legal Materials: Authenticity and Integrity in the Digital World, Center for

Technology in Government, Feb. 2012: http://www.ctg.albany.edu/publications/reports/legal_materials

Authentication of Primary Legal Materials and Pricing Options, Office of Legislative Counsel, Dec. 2011:

http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/records/legislativerecords/docs_pdfs/CA_Authentication_WhitePaper_Dec2011.pdf

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note on State Fiscal Impact of UELMA:

http://www.leg.state.co.us/CLICS/CLICS2012A/csl.nsf/fsbillcont3/CEC32CB5AEBC9CA87257981007DB219?Open&file=HB1209_00.pdf

State-By-State Report on Authentication of Online Legal Resources, Digital Access to Legal Information

Committee, AALL, 2007 & Supp. 2010: http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/authe_n_rprt/authefinalreport.pdf & http://www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/authe_n_rprt-updates/2009aallaauthenticationreportupdates.pdf