Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin (LLAW)

RESOLUTION

Endorsing the Enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act in the State of Wisconsin

WHEREAS, the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin believes that permanent, public access to official, authentic legal information is critical to the legal system of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin holds that legal information published on government websites must be trustworthy and reliable, preserved and permanently accessible, and offered to the public without charge whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA) promulgated by the Uniform Law Commission provides a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and will be permanently available and downloadable to the public in unaltered form; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has been a leader in transparency and access to legal materials, but does not publish and maintain official, authenticated versions of its primary legal materials online, and therefore has not yet provided comprehensive access to trustworthy, online versions of Wisconsin primary law in accordance with UELMA standards; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act requires that if a state’s primary legal material is published only in electronic form, that version must be designated as official; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act requires that online legal material that has been designated official must be capable of being authenticated, preserved, and permanently accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, Wisconsin primary legal material increasingly is available and updated only online; and

WHEREAS, enactment of UELMA legislation will assist the State of Wisconsin in guaranteeing full access to trustworthy versions of primary legal material for its citizens and the broader community; and

WHEREAS, members of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin have supported adoption of UELMA in other states and advocacy for the Act by our parent organization, the American Association of Law Libraries; and
WHEREAS, as of this date, sixteen (16) other states and the District of Columbia have passed UELMA legislation, a number that has increased in every legislative biennium since the endorsement of the uniform law by the Uniform Law Commission in 2011;

IT IS RESOLVED that the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, endorses the enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act in Wisconsin, and all other states and the District of Columbia.

IT IS RESOLVED that the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin will transmit a copy of this resolution to the Uniform Law Commission, the State Bar of Wisconsin, state officials, and others as appropriate.

This Resolution was approved by a vote of the Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin Executive Board on May 3, 2017.

Elana Olson, President
Law Librarians Association of Wisconsin

Kris Turner, Vice-President