Mid-America Association of Law Libraries

A RESOLUTION to Support the Enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act in the States of Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota

WHEREAS, the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries believes that permanent public access to official authentic legal information is critical to the legal system of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries holds that information published on government websites must be trustworthy and reliable; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries promotes the idea that information on government websites must be preserved and permanently accessible, and offered to the public without charge whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries has found that most of its member state governments, including the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota have not yet met their responsibility to provide trustworthy, reliable access to online legal information; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act 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 to the public in unaltered form; and

WHEREAS, the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act requires that if legal material is published only in electronic form, it must be designated official; and

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

WHEREAS, members of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries have advocated for adoption of the Act and have supported similar efforts of its parent organization, the American Association of Law Libraries, be it

RESOLVED, that the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries, a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries, supports enactment of the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act in the States of Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and South Dakota as well as in all other states throughout the United States and the District of Columbia.

Endorsed by vote of the Mid-America Association of Law Libraries Executive Board of the 8th of June, 2015.

Cynthia W. Bassett          Erika J. Cohn
President                   Secretary