September 12, 2019

Mr. Carl Lisman
President
Uniform Law Commission
111 N. Wabash Ave, Suite 1010
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Re: Support for the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act

Dear Mr. Lisman:

On behalf of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), a national organization representing almost 4,000 law librarians and legal information professionals, I write in support of the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA). This Act establishes an outcomes-based, technology-neutral approach for states to authenticate, preserve, and provide permanent public access to official legal materials.

As states increasingly understand the benefits of technology to expand online access to legal information, it has become clear that steps must also be taken to guarantee accuracy and preservation of such information. UELMA establishes a framework to ensure that online legal materials are provided the same level of trustworthiness traditionally associated only with print publication. UELMA supports access to justice by providing all people, including self-represented litigants, with equitable access to authentic and preserved legal information.

Since UELMA’s approval by the Uniform Law Commission in 2011, technologies have improved and expanded. New technologies have made implementation easier and more cost-effective. These developments have promoted adoption by providing states with myriad implementation options that may be tailored to their needs.

We are pleased that 21 states and the District of Columbia have enacted UELMA to date. A wider adoption of UELMA will establish an effective structure for states to provide online access to legal materials and further improve accessibility.

AALL looks forward to continuing to work with the Uniform Law Commission to ensure that the Act is passed in as many states as possible.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cosby
President