



2014/2015 Annual Report

UNIFORM LAW COMMISSION

WORKING FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY TO PROVIDE
CONSISTENCY, CLARITY, AND STABILITY IN STATE LAW

The Uniform Law Commission

The Uniform Law Commission (ULC), now 124 years old, promotes uniformity of law among the several states on subjects for which uniformity is desirable and practicable. The ULC improves the law by providing states with non-partisan, carefully-considered, and well-drafted legislation that brings clarity and stability to critical areas of the law. The ULC's work supports the federal system, seeks to maintain an appropriate balance between federal and state law, and facilitates the movement of individuals and the business of organization with rules that are consistent from state to state.

Uniform Law Commissioners must be lawyers, qualified to practice law. Commissioners are lawyer-legislators, attorneys in private practice, state and federal judges, law professors, and legislative staff attorneys, who have been appointed by state governments as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to research, draft and promote enactment of uniform state laws in areas where uniformity is desirable and practical.

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Officers 2014-2015

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Tim Berg, Secretary

Charles Trost, Treasurer

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Richard Cassidy, Chair, Executive Committee

Anita Ramasastry, Chair, Scope and Program Committee

John McGarvey, Chair, Legislative Committee

Appointed Members of Executive Committee

Richard Cassidy, Chair

Tom Bolt

Susan Nichols

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Harriet Lansing ULC President

We have had a dynamic and successful 2014-2015 year at the Uniform Law Commission.

The challenge that comes with transitions has provided us a time to build, and the success of our efforts has provided us a time to celebrate. Both Solomon in Ecclesiastes and Pete Seeger, in music that turns through the seasons, remind us that there is a time for every purpose. In 2014-2015 we have kept our longstanding ULC purposes well aligned with the momentum of unfolding times. To report on these developments, we look first to a summary of the reasons to celebrate and then a brief discussion of some of these significant events:

- We posted impressive numbers for the 2014-2015 legislative season, with more than 100 uniform laws enacted around the country.
- Our financial picture remains very strong. This year's percentage of state dues collected is within three percentage points of last year's eight-year high point, and our overall ULC revenues significantly exceeded our expenses.
- An excellent Executive Director Search Committee worked carefully to conduct a national search that resulted in the successful hiring of Liza Karsai. Additional staff adjustments include realignment of the legislative staff, two new Legislative Counsel, and the continuation of the Uniform Law Foundation Fellows.
- The Strengthening State Delegations Committee concluded their report on Core Requirements and Best Practices for Strengthening State Delegations.
- Our energetic work on state and federal relations continues with outreach and planning in conjunction with other important national organizations that are now Advisory Members to the ULC.

- We marked a very important year in International Activities, both in working toward harmonization and in the development of state laws to implement international private law treaties. In harmonization we moved ongoing projects forward with the Uniform Law Conference of Canada and began a project with the European Law Institute. In the development of state laws to implement international private law treaties, we successfully concluded a cooperative federalism project through our tremendous enactment effort on the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.

- Relying on the editing and drafting skills of ULC commissioners, members of the Style Committee, and the Legislative Attorneys Committee, we have reached the concluding stages of our work with Bryan Garner for the publication of Guidelines on Drafting and Editing Legislation.

- In a robust year of meetings with 20 drafting committees, 8 study committees, and 3 stakeholders' meetings, we made significant strides on keeping pace with the digital age through our work on digital assets, social media privacy, driverless cars, and virtual currency.

- We continued our work on upgrading and strengthening our technological infrastructure as we move forward on the initial stages of re-developing the ULC website.

- In addition to this sustained work on the future of the ULC, we have also worked to recognize and make available information on the ULC's history and important contributions to American law. In conjunction with the ULC Mid-Year Meeting in January, The University of Texas School of Law hosted a Celebration for the unveiling of the ULC Archives, which are housed at the Tarlton Law Library. As part of the celebration, we jointly sponsored a very successful symposium on "The Uniform Law Commission and Law Reform: Past, Present, and Future."

On Legislative Activity: The 2015 legislative sessions brought cause for celebration, as we increased our legislative enactment numbers significantly from the 2014 sessions and ended the year with more than 100 enactments nationwide. The Amendments to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act led the way with 36 enactments this year. We continued our progress on Uniform Commercial Code enactments, including work in Oklahoma that resulted in passage of Revised UCC Article 9, leaving only one jurisdiction without this UCC update. We also made progress on the Uniform Act on the Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking with important enactments in Montana and North Dakota.

On Finances: In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, our revenue of \$4,035,919 exceeded our \$3,759,897 expenses by more than a quarter of a million dollars and provides a surplus that can be moved to our reserve fund to protect us in future years. We can take great pride in the work that we have all done on state dues payments in this last year. I reported last year that our uncollectible dues (10.85%) were at the smallest percentage that we had seen in the last seven years. That trend continued this year as our uncollectible dues (12.85%) were once again at a low percentage. The dues payments, together with the stream of income from our intellectual property licenses, permit us to maintain a healthy reserve and to plan for more efficient and effective technology and support for our drafting committees, enactment efforts, and office structure.

On State Delegations: We all know that our legislative strength and our financial stability rest heavily on one thing: the vitality of our state delegations. The work of our Committee on Strengthening State Delegations continued this past year, and the committee presented its report in Williamsburg. The committee surveyed each state, gathering information relating to dues, appointing authorities, vacancies, annual meeting expense reimbursement, and relations with other relevant organizations. The committee gathered best practices from each of our delegations and itemized the core requirements and best practices for successful state delegations. As their findings show, delegation building is an ongoing process that needs vigilant renewal. Good communication, strategic planning, and focused outreach is essential and warrants a very high priority.

On Outreach to Other Organizations: Martha Walters and Dale Higer and their respective committees—State and Federal Relations Committee and the Committee on Liaison to Other Organizations—have been doing inspired and energetic work to move our recently developed Federalism Principles into productive action. They are working cooperatively with the

five related national organization that last year became ULC Advisory members: National Council of State Legislatures, National Association of Attorneys General, National Association of Secretaries of State, and Conference of Chief Justices and National Center for State Courts. They are also working closely with the Council of State Governments, one of our long-term advisory organizations, on legislative and federalism projects.

On International Activities: We continue to see more and more clearly what Bob Stein, chair of our International Legal Developments Committee, reminded us of in his report at the annual meeting, “In order to remain vital and effective, state laws must be harmonized with laws of other countries to support commercial and legal transactions that have multi-national effect.” To that end, we worked with our long-standing and closest international partner, the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, in a joint endeavor for the approval last year and enactment this year of the Uniform Recognition of Substitute Decision-making Documents Act. We also approved this year the Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic Violence Protection Orders to harmonize with a 2011 act of the Canadian Conference. In other harmonization activities, we have two study committees working on harmonization projects with countries in the Caribbean and we have also discussed harmonization concepts with the Mexican ULC.

Our relationship with the European Law Institute continues to grow stronger and we were very pleased that ELI Executive Committee member and Chair of the International Relations Committee Professor Sjeff van Erp was able to join us at our annual meeting, not only to address the full conference on ELI’s remarkable progress over these last 5 years, but also to participate in joint planning discussions on emerging issues in digital assets. The ELI extended a gracious invitation to me to represent the ULC as a keynote speaker for the ELI 2015 Annual Conference and General Assembly and also to chair a plenary panel with four distinguished ELI members from EU member countries to discuss the feasibility of a joint project with the ELI on Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets.

In developing state laws to implement international private law treaties that affect traditional areas of state law, we finished a landmark year with the successful state enactments of the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act. This is a highly significant development. When this is complete, and as a result of these enactments, a law drafted and approved by the ULC will be the basis for implementation and ratification of an international treaty, an area in which we have worked

very hard in recent years. The implications of this cooperative action are potentially far reaching in our continuing efforts to maintain the strength of state laws in areas where states have traditionally provided the governing law. To quote Bob Stein's wise admonition, "It is important for all of us to understand that we must engage in these international activities in order to insure that state law continues to be an effective and vital part of the legal infrastructure of the United States.

On Technology: The digital age has fundamentally changed not only the way we work to obtain, store, and distribute information, but also the way in which we conceptualize, create, capture, and transfer value, and define property. We have been responding to these changes both in the methods we use to accomplish our work as well as in the substance and subject matter of our ULC acts. Last year we worked on staff restructuring to bring on board IT specialist Greg Young—and that has proven to be a very sound decision. Greg is leading the re-development of the ULC website. The preliminary planning has been a long process, including the first steps of migrating data from our old servers to "the cloud." At the same time, we have appointed study and drafting committees to keep pace with the digital age on digital assets, social media privacy, driverless cars, and virtual currency. This has required flexibility in expediting meetings and processes and also careful planning and consultation on how to best address challenges that have emerged among stakeholders. Work on these issues will continue as part of the agenda for the new Technology Committee.

On Legislative Drafting: An initiative tied to our legislative function is our work on a book with Bryan Garner for Guidelines on Drafting and Editing Legislation. Although we have the ULC Drafting Rules for our own use, we have not ventured into the larger world of legislative drafting. The Guidelines will provide a foundation for making modern drafting processes and ideas more broadly available. The book is structured on a detailed comparison of existing statutes to side-by-side revisions. These illustrations illuminate the workability of good drafting principles. The ULC Style Committee, the ULC Committee of Legislative Attorneys, and other experienced ULC legislative drafters were instrumental in helping this project move to completion.

On the ULC Archives: For the past several years we have worked on the migration of the ULC Archives from the University of Pennsylvania to the University of Texas School of Law. In January 2015 the University of Texas School of Law hosted a Celebration of the unveiling of the ULC Archives. We joined with the UT School of Law and the Tarlton Library to present a very successful symposium entitled: "The Uniform Law Commission and Law Reform: Past, Present and Future."

The event, which was held at the University of Texas Law School, highlighted the importance of the work of the ULC over the past century. The drafts of acts, reports, memos, and other materials in the archive, document the development of our uniform laws, allowing attorneys, judicial staff, and other researchers to trace the drafting history of an act and gain an understanding of the act's intended meaning and impact at the state level and nationally. The ULC archive demonstrates the ULC's importance in the development of American law over the past 124 years. This has been the culmination of a long process and we are very pleased that the important information contained in these primary source documents is now available to the public. Because of our shared vision for law reform and scholarly research, we look forward to the opportunity to continue our work with the Tarlton Law Library for many years to come.

These highlights are offered to provide insight into the ULC's dynamic 2014-2015 year. It has been a year of hard work that has reaffirmed the steadfast purpose of the ULC as well as the equally steadfast resolve of commissioners to work as a non-partisan organization to find common ground, build coalitions, and achieve legislative success in our states. As evidenced by the challenging projects to which we directed our energy, we continue to believe that solid statutory solutions can be crafted to address our country's most challenging problems. In that mission, we are greatly assisted by a highly professional and competent staff. We know, however, that the ultimate source of the activity, productivity, dynamism, and the high quality of our work continues to be our Uniform Law Commissioners. It has been a great privilege to work shoulder to shoulder with all of you over these last two years, and I will always be proud of the work that we have accomplished together.





Legislative Report

The Uniform Law Commission is a unique institution created by state governments – and funded by state appropriations – to research, draft, and present to the states for enactment, uniform and model laws on subjects where uniformity of the law is useful or necessary.

However, the work of the ULC doesn't end there. What makes the ULC so unique is that it not only studies and drafts legislative solutions to significant problems affecting the states, it then works to make those acts the law in the states. No uniform law is effective until a state legislature adopts it. To that end, Uniform Law Commissioners work toward enactment of ULC acts in their home jurisdictions.

The 2015 legislative year ended with 103 enactments and 212 introductions.

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act

Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA) provides universal and uniform rules for the enforcement of family support orders by: setting basic jurisdictional standards for state courts; determining the basis for a state to exercise continuing exclusive jurisdiction over a child support proceeding; establishing rules for determining which state issues the controlling order in the event proceedings are initiated in multiple jurisdictions; and providing rules for modifying or refusing to modify another state's child support order.

In 2008, the ULC approved amendments to UIFSA that incorporated provisions of the 2007 Hague Convention on the International Recovery of Child Support of Family Maintenance ("the Convention"). The amendments serve as the implementing language for the Convention throughout the United States, and will improve the enforcement of American child support orders abroad.

In September 2014, Congress enacted federal implementing legislation for the Convention: H.R. 4980, the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. The new measure enacts various amendments to federal law to ensure access to child support services in international child support cases.

Similar to the federal mandate for UIFSA 1996, the new federal law required that all states enact UIFSA 2008 as a condition for the continued receipt of federal funds supporting state child support programs. In 2015, the UIFSA 2008 Amendments were enacted in 35 states, bringing its total number of enactments to 47. The remaining six states are expected to enact UIFSA soon.

Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act

The Uniform Deployed Parents Custody and Visitation Act (UDPCVA), promulgated in 2012, was enacted in four states in 2015, bringing its total number of enactments to 10: Arkansas, Colorado, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee. The UDPCVA addresses issues of child custody and visitation that arise when parents are deployed in military or other national service.

The deployment of a custodial parent raises custody issues that are not adequately dealt with in the law of most states. In many instances, deployment will be sudden, making it difficult to resolve custody issues before the deployment by ordinary child custody procedures. There is a need to ensure that parents who serve their country are not penalized for their service, while still giving adequate weight to the interests of the other parent, and most importantly, the best interest of the child. The UDPCVA contains provisions that apply generally to custody matters of service members, as well as provisions that arise on notice of and during deployment.

One of the key points of the Act provides that the mere absence of a military parent from a state will not be used to deprive that state of jurisdiction over custody. For most cases, a move is a purely voluntary thing. For service members, however, a move is not voluntary but is made under a military order. Such an involuntary move should not lead to the loss of jurisdiction by a state most familiar and involved with the child's best interest. The Act also ensures that courts will not use past or potential future deployments against a service member, unless there are substantial issues regarding the impact of a deployment on the child's best interests. Parents should be free to serve their country in uniform without having their service held against them in a custody case.

Uniform Business Organizations Code

This year Idaho became the second state, joining the District of Columbia, to enact the Uniform Business Organizations Code (UBOC). Since the early 1990s, the ULC has promulgated or revised eight unincorporated business entity acts: Revised Uniform Partnership Act; Revised Uniform Limited Partnership Act; Revised Uniform Limited Liability Company Act; Model Registered Agents Act; Uniform Limited Cooperative Association Act; Model Entity Transactions Act; Revised Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act; and Uniform Statutory Trust Entity Act.

The UBOC harmonizes the numerous uniform business entity acts. The primary purposes of the Code are: (1) to harmonize the language of all of the unincorporated entity laws, and (2) to revise the language of each of those acts in a manner that permits their integration into a single Code of entity laws. States that choose to adopt this new Code will also have the option of including all of their corporation and non-profit corporation acts within the Code. States can choose to enact the entire UBOC, or enact the individual stand-alone harmonized acts.

Uniform Voidable Transactions Act (formerly the Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act)

The Uniform Voidable Transactions Act (UVTA) strengthens creditor protections by providing remedies for certain transactions by a debtor that are unfair to the debtor's creditors. For example, the UVTA provides a remedy to a creditor whose debtor transfers property to a relative or third party to keep the property away from the creditor's reach.

The 2014 Amendments to UVTA update the existing Uniform Fraudulent Transfer Act in a number of key ways, including: changing the title of the act to "Uniform Voidable Transactions

Act" to provide a more accurate description of what the act does; adding a clear choice-of-law provision that offers predictability and reduces costs; adding improved provisions for determining a debtor's insolvency; and providing guidance to courts and litigants by setting out the burden of proof of each party in a UVTA lawsuit.

The UVTA 2014 Amendments were enacted in seven states in 2015: Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, and North Dakota.

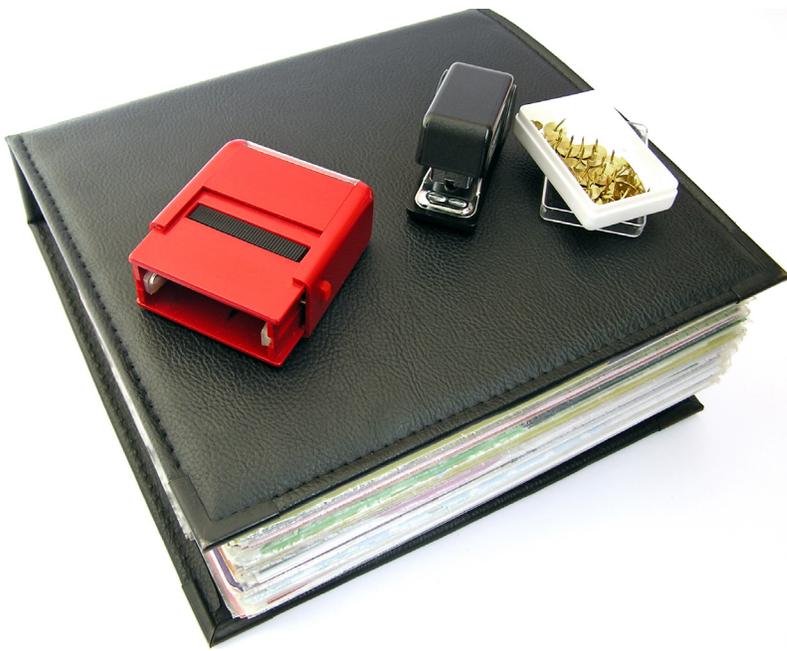
Uniform Act on the Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking

Last year, four states – Delaware, Louisiana, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania – enacted substantial provisions of the Uniform Act on the Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking (UAPRHT). This year, the progress made in 2014 continued, with three new substantial enactments: in Montana, North Dakota, and South Carolina. The enactments in Montana and North Dakota led to numerous and positive press coverage, as those states grappled with the problems of the oil boom in the Bakken oil fields.

Across the world, an estimated 27 million people are trafficked each year. They are coerced, often by force or by deception, into forced labor or sexual servitude. Approximately 14,500 to 17,000 victims are brought into the United States each year. Children make up a distressingly high percentage of human-trafficking victims here and abroad.

The Uniform Act is a comprehensive law that provides states with the key legal tools needed to end human trafficking. It has the three components necessary for ending human trafficking: (1) comprehensive human trafficking penalties; (2) essential protections for human trafficking victims; and (3) public awareness, training, and planning processes needed to combat human trafficking.

Although most states have some form of anti-human trafficking legislation already in place, every state can bolster its efforts by adopting the Uniform Act's provisions. Along with the seven states that have enacted significant and substantial portions of the uniform act, the Uniform Act has also been the basis for anti-human trafficking legislation in numerous other states, including Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, Nebraska, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.



New Uniform Acts Approved in 2015

The culmination of the work of the Uniform Law Commission takes place at its annual meeting each summer, when the Commission convenes as a Committee of the Whole. At its 124th Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia, July 10-16, 2015, seven new uniform acts were considered and approved. After receiving the ULC's seal of approval, a uniform act is officially promulgated for consideration by the states, and state legislatures are urged to adopt it.

Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act

With the immense amount of money at stake for a wide variety of professional athletes and those who represent them, the commercial marketplace in which athlete agents operate is extremely competitive. The recruitment of a student athlete while he or she is still enrolled in an educational institution can and will cause substantial eligibility problems for both the student athlete and the educational institution, which in turn lead to severe economic sanctions and loss of scholarships for the institution. The problem becomes worse where an unethical agent misleads a student, especially where the athlete is not aware of the possible effect of signing the agency agreement or where agency is established without notice to the athletic director of the institution. In an effort to address these problems, the Uniform Law Commission drafted the Uniform Athlete Agents Act (UAAA), which was approved in 2000 and enacted in 42 states.

The UAAA provided for the uniform registration, certification, and a mandated criminal history disclosure of sports agents who sought to represent student athletes who were or may have been eligible to participate in intercollegiate sports, imposed specified contract terms on these agreements, and provided educational institutions with a right to notice along with a civil cause of action for damages resulting from a

breach of specified duties.

The UAAA was revised in 2015 and is now known as the Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act (RUAAA). The purposes of the RUAAA includes providing enhanced protection for student athletes and educational institutions, create a uniform body of agent registration information for use by state agencies, and simplify the regulatory environment faced by legitimate athlete agents.

Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act

A receiver is someone appointed by a court to take possession of another person's property and manage it. Receivers can be used in a variety of situations, including:

- When the property is the subject of a lawsuit and its value must be preserved while the issue is litigated;
- When the property includes an operating business, to sell its assets in an orderly manner and maximize the return for its owners and/or creditors; and
- When requested by a creditor, to collect, preserve, and distribute the property of an insolvent or defaulting debtor.

Currently, receivership procedures vary widely from state to state, and sometimes even from court to court. The Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act (UCRERA) provides a consistent set of rules for receiverships involving commercial property, including, but not limited to:

Due Process. Under UCRERA, the court may issue an order only after notice and opportunity for a hearing, unless no interested party requests a hearing or special circumstances require the issuance of an order before a hearing can be held.

Appointment. UCRERA establishes uniform standards under which a court may appoint a receiver, and under which a mortgage lender may obtain appointment of a receiver, either as a matter of right or as a matter of the court's discretion.

Identity and Independence. Because a receiver is the agent of the court, UCRERA requires independent receivers.

Effect of Appointment. On appointment, a receiver has the status of a lien creditor with respect to receivership property. However, pre-existing perfected security interests in receivership property are unaffected.

Powers and Duties. UCRERA sets out the receiver's presumptive powers, as well as those that the receiver may exercise only with court approval. The act also sets out the duties of both the receiver and the owner of receivership property.

UCRERA provides a set of uniform rules that should provide more predictability to lenders and borrowers alike. It gives state courts guidance on the receivership process while preserving the court's flexibility to craft a remedy appropriate under the circumstances.

Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act

In the Internet age, the nature of property and our methods of communication have changed dramatically. A generation ago, a human being delivered our mail, photos were kept in albums, documents in file cabinets, and money on deposit at the corner bank. For most people today, at least some of their property and communications are stored as data on a computer server and accessed via the Internet.

Collectively, a person's digital property and electronic communications are referred to as "digital assets" and the companies that store those assets on their servers are called "custodians." Access to digital assets is usually governed by a terms-of-service agreement rather than by property law. This creates problems when Internet users die or otherwise lose the ability to manage their own digital assets.

A fiduciary is a trusted person with the legal authority to manage another's property, and the duty to act in that person's best interest. The Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act (Revised UFADAA) addresses four common types of fiduciaries:

1. Executors or administrators of deceased persons' estates;
2. Court-appointed guardians or conservators of protected persons' estates;
3. Agents appointed under powers of attorney; and
4. Trustees.

Revised UFADAA gives Internet users the power to plan for the management and disposition of their digital assets in a similar way as they can make plans for their tangible property. In case of conflicting instructions, the act provides a three-tiered system of priorities:

1. If the custodian provides an online tool, separate from the general terms of service, that allows the user to name another person to have access to the user's digital assets or to direct the custodian to delete the user's digital assets, Revised UFADAA makes the user's online instructions legally enforceable.
2. If the custodian does not provide an online planning option, or if the user declines to use the online tool provided, the user may give legally enforceable directions for the disposition of digital assets in a will, trust, power of attorney, or other written record.
3. If the user has not provided any direction, either online or in a traditional estate plan, the terms of service for the user's account will determine whether a fiduciary may access the user's digital assets. If the terms of service do not address fiduciary access, the default rules of Revised UFADAA will apply.

Revised UFADAA's default rules attempt to balance the user's privacy interest with the fiduciary's need for access by making a distinction between the "content of electronic communications," the "catalogue of electronic communications," and other types of digital assets.

The content of electronic communications includes the subject line and body of a user's email messages, text messages, and other messages between private parties. A fiduciary may never

access the content of electronic communications without the user's consent. When necessary, a fiduciary may have a right to access a catalogue of the user's electronic communications – essentially a list of communications showing the addresses of the sender and recipient, and the date and time the message was sent.

Revised UFADAA is an overlay statute designed to work in conjunction with a state's existing laws on probate, guardianship, trusts, and powers of attorney.

Uniform Home Foreclosure Procedures Act

The surge in foreclosure activity from 2007 through 2011 revealed major flaws in the current system. The bundling of individual mortgages into investment vehicles, sometimes without a clear paper trail of transactions, led to disputes over who had the legal right to foreclose on a property. Borrowers who fell behind on payments sometimes found themselves forced to deal with loan servicers that had no authority or incentive to negotiate a settlement. State court systems were overwhelmed with foreclosure cases, resulting in lengthy and expensive delays. The Uniform Home Foreclosure Procedures Act (UHFPA) provides an improved set of procedures designed to resolve residential foreclosure actions quickly, efficiently, and fairly to all concerned.

UHFPA applies only to single-family homes and condominiums. All parties are required to act in good faith. Creditors and their servicers must refrain from making any misrepresentations about a homeowner's rights. Municipalities may not enact local regulations that would conflict with the act, and any provision in a mortgage contract that purports to waive the borrower's rights under this act is void.

UHFPA provides rules to ensure homeowners receive adequate notice of default before a creditor starts foreclosure proceedings. The notice must also disclose the homeowner's right to cure the default.

The Act creates an innovative foreclosure resolution process where a neutral party attempts to help the parties negotiate a resolution agreeable to all. Homeowners facing foreclosure must be informed of their right to participate and provided with a list of local agencies or legal aid offices that provide counseling services.

The recent foreclosure crisis was worse than necessary due to outdated legal procedures that extended the process for many

foreclosure actions, allowing homes to physically deteriorate and lose even more in value. Clear foreclosure and pre-foreclosure procedures benefit everyone by reducing unnecessary litigation and allowing quick and efficient resolution.

Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic-Violence Protection Orders Act

The Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic-Violence Protection Orders Act provides for the enforcement of domestic violence protection orders issued by Canadian courts. Reflecting the friendship between the United States and Canada, citizens move freely between the two countries, freedom that in certain limited circumstances can work against victims of domestic violence. Many states enacted legislation recognizing the domestic violence orders of sister states, and in 2002, the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) approved the Uniform Interstate Enforcement of Domestic-Violence Protection Orders Act (UIEDVPOA), encouraging states to recognize and enforce the domestic violence orders of other states. In 2011, the Uniform Law Conference of Canada (ULCC) approved the Uniform Enforcement of Canadian Judgments and Decrees Act (UECJDA), which provides for the recognition of foreign protection orders – including those of the United States – unless the foreign state of origin has been expressly excluded from the provisions of the act. By this act, enacting states accord similar recognition to protection orders from Canada.

This act draws from the UIEDVPOA and the UECJDA in its recognition and enforcement of Canadian domestic violence protection orders. The two Acts are similar in several important respects. Both recognize domestic violence protection orders without requiring that the party seeking enforcement register the foreign order. Likewise, both provide that a law enforcement agency or court respect a facially valid order until successfully challenged after the request for emergency action has passed.

Because of the limits on enforcing the criminal orders of another country, this act enforces only Canadian civil domestic violence orders. The act also limits recognition of Canadian domestic violence protection orders to those orders that issue from courts.

The act also provides uniform procedures for the cross-border enforcement of Canadian domestic violence protection orders. The act envisions that the enforcement of Canadian domestic

violence protection orders will require law enforcement officers of enforcing states to rely on probable cause judgments that a valid order exists and has been violated. The act, however, provides that if a protected individual can provide direct proof of the existence of a facially valid order, for example, by presenting a paper copy or accessing an electronic registry, the copy or registry conclusively establishes probable cause. If there is no such proof, the act nevertheless requires enforcement if officers, relying on the totality of the circumstances, determine that there is probable cause to believe that a valid protection order exists and has been violated. The individual against whom the order is enforced will have sufficient opportunity to demonstrate that the order is invalid if and when the case is brought before the enforcing tribunal. Law enforcement officers, as well as other government agents, will be encouraged to rely on probable cause judgments by the act's inclusion of an immunity provision, protecting agents of the government acting in good faith.

The act does not require individuals seeking enforcement of a protection order to register or file the order with the enforcing state. It does, however, include an optional registration process. This process permits individuals to register a Canadian domestic violence protection order by presenting a copy of the order to a responsible state agency or any state officer or agency. The issuing Canadian court must certify the copy presented for registration. The purpose of these procedures is to make it as easy as possible for the protected individual to register the protection order and facilitate its enforcement.

Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act

The Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (URLTA), first approved in 1972 and enacted in 21 states, provided rules governing residential lease arrangements. Over the years, many of those states have enacted nonuniform amendments to the act to address newly arising issues.

In 2015 the ULC promulgated a Revised URLTA. The Revised Act adds provisions that had not been addressed in the original version, including:

- Tenant abandonment or death, and the disposition of tenant's personal property;
- Lease modification or termination in case of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault; and
- Handling security deposits and unearned rent.

The Revised Act also updates many other provisions of the act, clarifying the rights, duties, and remedies of both landlords and tenants.

Revised URLTA can be enacted in its entirety and should be considered by any state that wants a modern, comprehensive set of rules to govern residential lease arrangements. However, the Revised Act includes an appendix that serves as an adoption guide for states that want to update a current statute by adding provisions on one or more of the topics listed above.

Uniform Trust Decanting Act

“Decanting” is the term used to describe the distribution of assets from one trust into a second trust, like wine is decanted from the bottle to another vessel. Decanting can be a useful strategy for changing the outdated terms of an otherwise irrevocable trust, but can also be abused to defeat the settlor's intent. Because decanting is an exercise of the trustee's discretion and does not require beneficiaries to consent, certain tax penalties that would otherwise apply can be avoided. Every state allows decanting in some form, but only some states have statutes governing decanting, and those vary widely.

The Uniform Trust Decanting Act includes one stricter set of rules that applies when the settlor gave the trustee limited discretion over distributions, and another more liberal set of rules that applies when the trustee has expanded discretion. In both cases, the person exercising the decanting power is subject to all applicable fiduciary duties, including the duty to act in accordance with the purposes of the first trust.

When the trustee has limited discretion over distributions, decanting is permitted for administrative or tax purposes, but the beneficial interests under the second trust instrument must be substantially similar to the beneficial interests under the first trust. In other words, the trustee may not exercise the decanting power to reduce or eliminate the interest of any beneficiary. However, if the trustee already has expanded discretion to reduce or eliminate the interest of beneficiaries under the terms of the first trust, UTDA provides more flexibility.

One common reason for decanting is to provide for a beneficiary who becomes disabled after the settlor executed the first trust. If the settlor did not anticipate the possibility of disability, the beneficiary may be ineligible for governmental benefits that would otherwise be available.

The UDTA limits decanting when it would defeat a charitable or tax-related purpose of the settlor, and prohibits decanting for the purpose of adjusting trustee compensation without the unanimous consent of the beneficiaries or court approval.

In summary, the UDTA provides a more complete set of rules for decanting than currently exists in any state.



The ULC Archives

Tarleton Law Library, among the largest academic law libraries in the nation, is the finest legal research center in the Southwest. Tarleton is distinguished by its outstanding collections and innovative services, and has an exceptional archival and special collections program that supports the academic and research needs of the Law School and legal community with its unique content.

The Tarleton Law Library is also home to the ULC Archives, and the ULC Archives are well matched to this environment. The content-rich ULC materials include drafts of acts, reports, memos, journals, individual and committee accounts of events and meetings, and other primary source materials. These materials document the development of numerous uniform laws, and provide ample opportunity for attorneys, judicial staff, scholars, and other researchers to trace the drafting history of an act and gain an understanding of the act's intended meaning and impact at the state level and nationally.

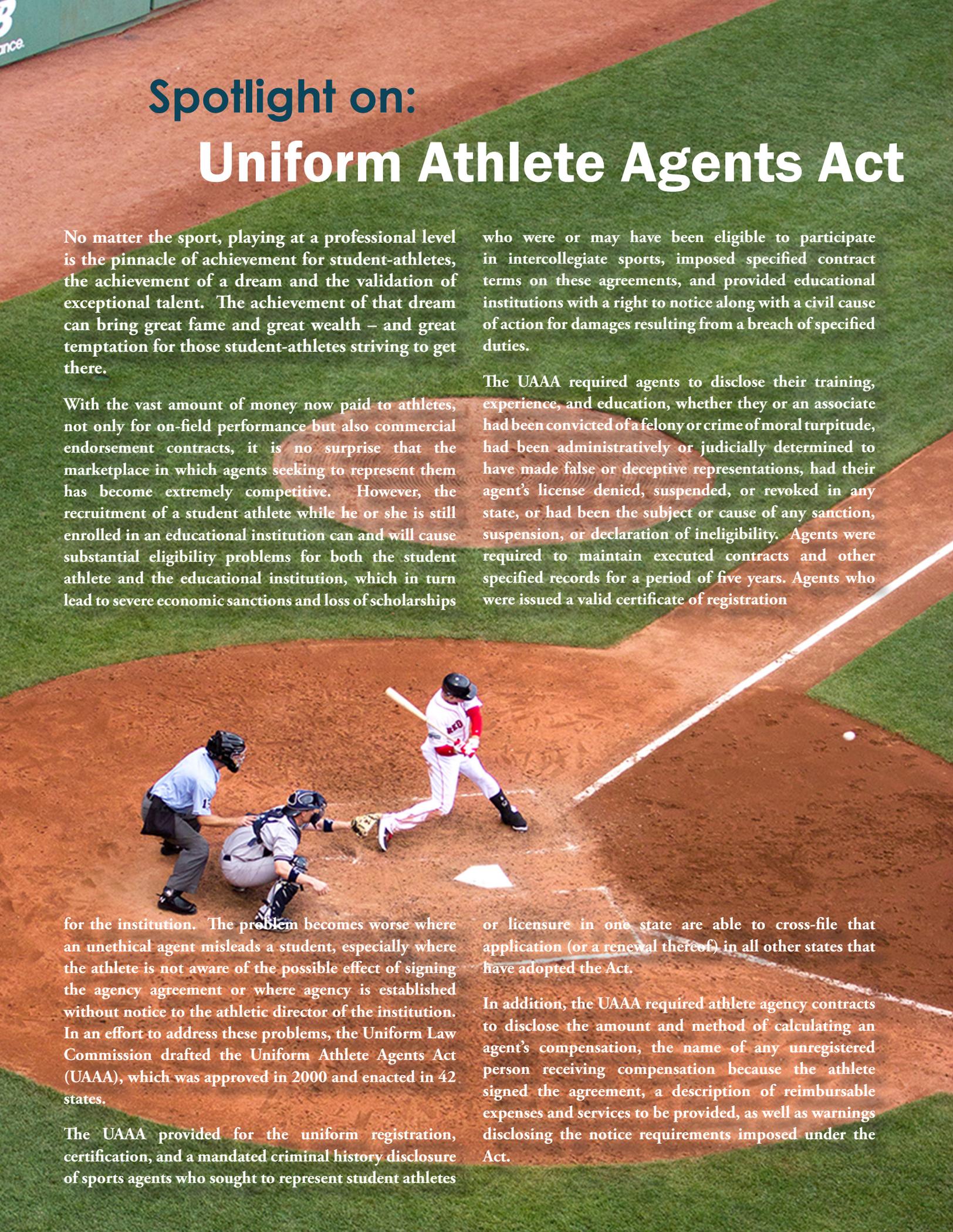
The ULC Archives represent more than 500 linear feet of material, all of which has been processed and indexed. Materials from more than 50 commissioners, reporters, and other donors have been processed, representing information on more than 165 acts and numerous committees.

The Archives have been structured into four easy-to-research “series,” each divided into subseries:

- Acts;
- General enactment materials;
- Committees; and
- Administration (relating to the administrative functions of the Uniform Law Commission).

Finding aids are being completed for each act and each subseries in the Archive, and will be extensively cross-referenced to improve research access. The finding aids will be available online. Digitizing will be completed in the near future, opening the possibility of online access to archival materials at a future time.

This has been the culmination of a long process and it is exhilarating to know that this important information contained in these primary source documents is now available to the public. Because of our shared vision for law reform and scholarly research, the Tarleton Law Library is exactly the right place for the ULC Archives. We welcome the opportunity to continue our work with the Tarleton Law Library for many years to come.



Spotlight on:

Uniform Athlete Agents Act

No matter the sport, playing at a professional level is the pinnacle of achievement for student-athletes, the achievement of a dream and the validation of exceptional talent. The achievement of that dream can bring great fame and great wealth – and great temptation for those student-athletes striving to get there.

With the vast amount of money now paid to athletes, not only for on-field performance but also commercial endorsement contracts, it is no surprise that the marketplace in which agents seeking to represent them has become extremely competitive. However, the recruitment of a student athlete while he or she is still enrolled in an educational institution can and will cause substantial eligibility problems for both the student athlete and the educational institution, which in turn lead to severe economic sanctions and loss of scholarships

for the institution. The problem becomes worse where an unethical agent misleads a student, especially where the athlete is not aware of the possible effect of signing the agency agreement or where agency is established without notice to the athletic director of the institution. In an effort to address these problems, the Uniform Law Commission drafted the Uniform Athlete Agents Act (UAAA), which was approved in 2000 and enacted in 42 states.

The UAAA provided for the uniform registration, certification, and a mandated criminal history disclosure of sports agents who sought to represent student athletes

who were or may have been eligible to participate in intercollegiate sports, imposed specified contract terms on these agreements, and provided educational institutions with a right to notice along with a civil cause of action for damages resulting from a breach of specified duties.

The UAAA required agents to disclose their training, experience, and education, whether they or an associate had been convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude, had been administratively or judicially determined to have made false or deceptive representations, had their agent's license denied, suspended, or revoked in any state, or had been the subject or cause of any sanction, suspension, or declaration of ineligibility. Agents were required to maintain executed contracts and other specified records for a period of five years. Agents who were issued a valid certificate of registration

or licensure in one state are able to cross-file that application (or a renewal thereof) in all other states that have adopted the Act.

In addition, the UAAA required athlete agency contracts to disclose the amount and method of calculating an agent's compensation, the name of any unregistered person receiving compensation because the athlete signed the agreement, a description of reimbursable expenses and services to be provided, as well as warnings disclosing the notice requirements imposed under the Act.



The UAAA was revised in 2015 and is now known as the Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act providing enhanced protection for student athletes and educational institutions, create a uniform body of agent registration information for use by state agencies, and simplify the regulatory environment faced by legitimate athlete agents.

“Athlete agent” is further defined to include an individual who, for compensation or the anticipation of compensation, serves the athlete in an advisory capacity on a matter related to finances, business pursuits, or career management decisions; or manages the business affairs of the athlete by providing assistance with bills, payments, contracts, or taxes. The revised Act revises the definition of “athlete agent” to include individuals who give something of value to a student athlete or another person in anticipation of representing the athlete for a purpose related to the athlete’s participation in athletics.

The revised Act contains two alternatives for athlete agent registration. Alternative A includes a true reciprocal registration requirement in that if an individual is issued a certificate of registration by one state, the registration is in good standing and no disciplinary proceedings are pending against the registration, and the law in that state is the same or more restrictive as the law in another state, the other state would be required to register the individual. Alternative B would adopt an interstate compact when the Act is enacted by at least five states. The compact would create the Commission on Interstate Regulation of Athlete Agents to provide a single registration site where an individual could register to act as an athlete agent in the states that are members of the compact.

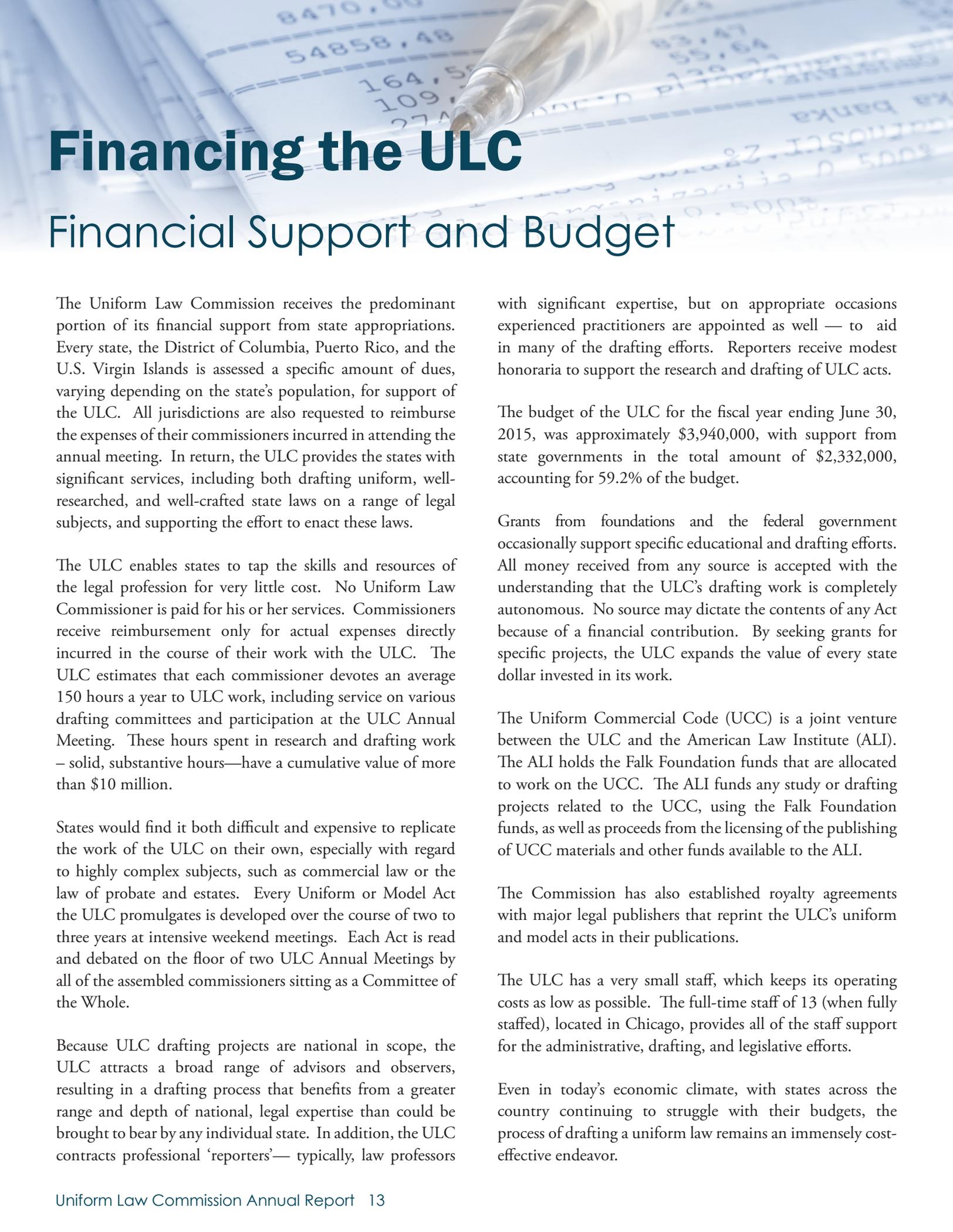


The revised Act adds additional requirements to the signing of an agency contract. The contract must now contain a statement that the athlete agent is registered in the state in which the contract is signed and list any other state in which the agent is registered. The contract must also be accompanied by a separate record signed by the student athlete acknowledging that signing the contract may result in the loss of eligibility to participate in the athlete’s sport.

Under the revised Act, an agent is required to notify the educational institution at which a student athlete is enrolled before contacting a student athlete. A violation of this notice requirement is subject to civil penalties.

The revised Act also contains a provision that requires an athlete agent with a preexisting relationship with a student athlete who enrolls at an educational institution and receives an athletic scholarship to notify the institution of the relationship if the agent knows or should have known of the enrollment and the relationship was motivated by the intention of the agent to recruit or solicit the athlete to enter an agency contract or the agent actually recruited or solicited the student athlete to enter a contract.

The revised Act adds criminal penalties for athlete agents who encourage another individual to take on behalf of the agent an action the agent is prohibited from taking. Furthermore, the revised Act contains provisions for actual damages, treble damages, punitive damages, and attorney’s fees as options for a state to enact. Student athletes are also given a right of action against an athlete agent in violation of the Act.



Financing the ULC

Financial Support and Budget

The Uniform Law Commission receives the predominant portion of its financial support from state appropriations. Every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands is assessed a specific amount of dues, varying depending on the state's population, for support of the ULC. All jurisdictions are also requested to reimburse the expenses of their commissioners incurred in attending the annual meeting. In return, the ULC provides the states with significant services, including both drafting uniform, well-researched, and well-crafted state laws on a range of legal subjects, and supporting the effort to enact these laws.

The ULC enables states to tap the skills and resources of the legal profession for very little cost. No Uniform Law Commissioner is paid for his or her services. Commissioners receive reimbursement only for actual expenses directly incurred in the course of their work with the ULC. The ULC estimates that each commissioner devotes an average 150 hours a year to ULC work, including service on various drafting committees and participation at the ULC Annual Meeting. These hours spent in research and drafting work – solid, substantive hours—have a cumulative value of more than \$10 million.

States would find it both difficult and expensive to replicate the work of the ULC on their own, especially with regard to highly complex subjects, such as commercial law or the law of probate and estates. Every Uniform or Model Act the ULC promulgates is developed over the course of two to three years at intensive weekend meetings. Each Act is read and debated on the floor of two ULC Annual Meetings by all of the assembled commissioners sitting as a Committee of the Whole.

Because ULC drafting projects are national in scope, the ULC attracts a broad range of advisors and observers, resulting in a drafting process that benefits from a greater range and depth of national, legal expertise than could be brought to bear by any individual state. In addition, the ULC contracts professional ‘reporters’— typically, law professors

with significant expertise, but on appropriate occasions experienced practitioners are appointed as well — to aid in many of the drafting efforts. Reporters receive modest honoraria to support the research and drafting of ULC acts.

The budget of the ULC for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, was approximately \$3,940,000, with support from state governments in the total amount of \$2,332,000, accounting for 59.2% of the budget.

Grants from foundations and the federal government occasionally support specific educational and drafting efforts. All money received from any source is accepted with the understanding that the ULC's drafting work is completely autonomous. No source may dictate the contents of any Act because of a financial contribution. By seeking grants for specific projects, the ULC expands the value of every state dollar invested in its work.

The Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) is a joint venture between the ULC and the American Law Institute (ALI). The ALI holds the Falk Foundation funds that are allocated to work on the UCC. The ALI funds any study or drafting projects related to the UCC, using the Falk Foundation funds, as well as proceeds from the licensing of the publishing of UCC materials and other funds available to the ALI.

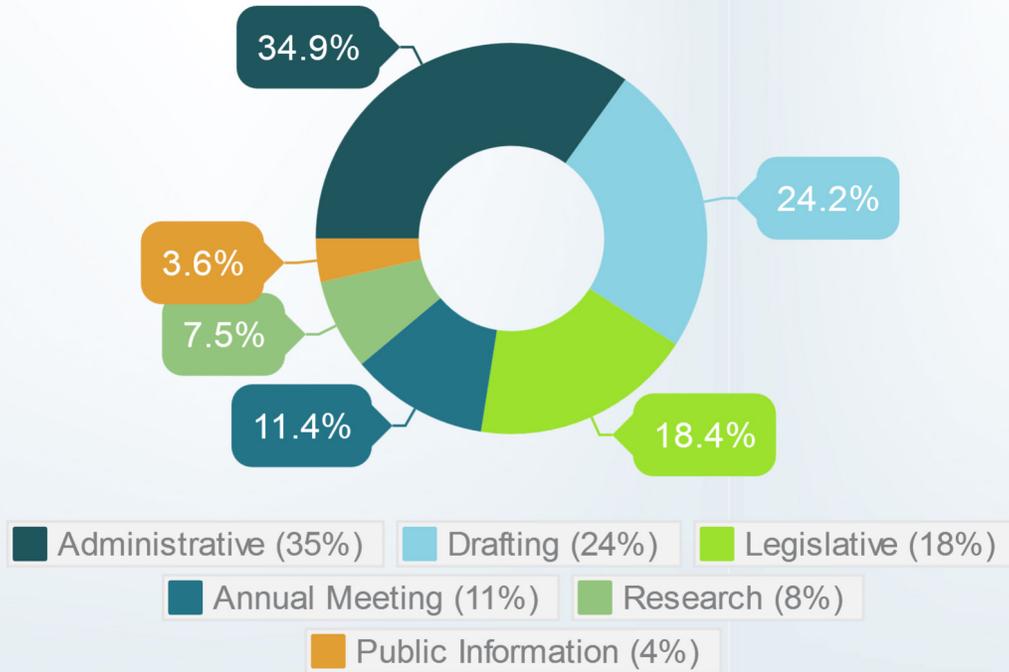
The Commission has also established royalty agreements with major legal publishers that reprint the ULC's uniform and model acts in their publications.

The ULC has a very small staff, which keeps its operating costs as low as possible. The full-time staff of 13 (when fully staffed), located in Chicago, provides all of the staff support for the administrative, drafting, and legislative efforts.

Even in today's economic climate, with states across the country continuing to struggle with their budgets, the process of drafting a uniform law remains an immensely cost-effective endeavor.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget for Fiscal Year



Revenues and Expenses





Current ULC Committees

Drafting Committees

Uniform Law Commission drafting committees consist of a chair, several ULC commissioners from various states, and a reporter (usually a law professor with expertise in the subject matter). The ULC seeks to have one or more ABA advisors appointed to every drafting committee. Other interested groups are also invited to send representatives, known as observers.

ULC drafting committees typically meet two or three times a year for at least two years. Drafting Committee meetings are open to the public and full participation in the discussions is encouraged. All drafts are posted on the ULC's website (www.uniformlaws.org) which enables public review and comment.

Currently, 16 drafting committees are working on new and revised uniform and model acts. Proposed acts are subject to rigorous examination and debate at ULC annual meetings before they become eligible for designation as Uniform Law Commission products.

The final decision on whether an act is ready for promulgation to the states is made near the close of an annual meeting, on a vote-by-states basis, with an affirmative vote of 20 or more states necessary for final approval.

Drafting Committee on Criminal Records Accuracy

Many developments concerning criminal records have occurred over the past twenty years, including the creation of the National Criminal Background Check System in 1993, the establishment of criminal history repositories in all states, and the increasing use of criminal record checks in connection with eligibility for employment, professional and occupational licenses, credit worthiness, and other non-criminal justice purposes. Recent studies have demonstrated that criminal records accessed for these purposes may be inaccurate or incomplete. Some of the

causes of inaccuracy or incompleteness are: lack of information on dispositions after an arrest or other charge has been entered in a database; data entry errors resulting, e.g., in an incorrect listing of the offense, or multiple listings of the same offense, or attribution of an offense to a wrong individual; criminal identity theft (when an arrested person gives another person's identifying information); and searches for criminal record information resulting in one person's criminal record information appearing in search results initiated for a different individual. This drafting committee will draft an act that seeks to improve the accuracy of criminal records.

Drafting Committee on Divided Trusteeship

An increasingly common practice in contemporary estate planning and asset management is the naming of a trustee that is given custody of the trust property, but with one or more of the investment, distribution or administration functions of the trusteeship being given to a person or persons who are not formally designated as trustees. This is the problem of divided trusteeship. Much uncertainty exists about the fiduciary status of nontrustees who have control or potential control over a function of trusteeship and about the fiduciary responsibility of trustees with regard to actions taken by such nontrustees. Existing uniform trust and estate statutes inadequately address the issues and are at risk of becoming obsolete unless they are amended to take account of these developments. This committee will draft legislation on divided trusteeship and also will draft conforming amendments to other uniform trust and estate acts as appropriate.

Drafting Committee for a Uniform Electronic Registry for Residential Mortgage Notes

The development of securitization as a common practice with regard to residential mortgage notes has created the need for a more efficient and less costly means than the current paper-based rules of UCC Article 3 to identify who is entitled to enforce a

residential mortgage note and how the debt evidenced by the note is transferred. A more efficient system will benefit not only those engaged in the secondary mortgage market, but also note obligors who will have a clear, certain and easily accessible way to determine who is the person entitled to enforce their obligation, and thus the person with whom they must deal with regard to enforcement related issues such as payoff and loan modification. Given the importance of the secondary mortgage market to the availability of capital for residential mortgage loans, a more efficient system is likely to benefit home buyers seeking residential mortgage loans as well. The drafting committee will develop a uniform electronic registry for residential mortgage notes that will be national in its effect, taking into account inter alia the appropriate relationship between the registry and other law.

Drafting Committee on Family Law Arbitration

While arbitration has not normally been permitted in family law matters, in recent years a number of states have adopted legislation that authorizes arbitration with respect to some issues in the family law area. This drafting committee is drafting an act that authorizes the use of arbitration as a method of resolving some family law disputes and that will provide any special provisions, in addition to those in existing state arbitration legislation, necessary to facilitate the use of arbitration in family law matters.

Drafting Committee to Revise the Uniform Guardianship and Protective Proceedings Act (UGPPA)

The UGPPA was approved by the ULC in 1982, amended in 1989, and revised in 1997. Nearly 20 states have enacted one or the other version of the act. This drafting committee will revise selected portions of the UGPPA in order to implement some of the recommendations of the Third National Guardianship Summit and otherwise to update the act.

Drafting Committee on Model Tribal Secured Transactions Act

The ULC, working closely with representatives of Indian tribes and organizations, promulgated the Model Tribal Secured Transactions Act (MTSTA) in 2005. The act has been adopted by a substantial number of tribal governments. In 2010, the ULC adopted amendments to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code (upon which the MTSTA is based), particularly to provide greater guidance as to the name of an individual debtor that should be provided on a

financing statement. This committee, working closely with representatives of Indian tribes and organizations, will draft amendments to the MTSTA that incorporate, as appropriate, some of the 2010 Amendments to UCC Article 9. The committee may also consider preparing other amendments to the MTSTA, such as provisions providing protections for tribal cultural property.

Drafting Committee on a Model Tribal Probate Code

The federal American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA) provides very limited rules concerning probate issues in Indian Country; many probate law issues exist that are addressed in the Uniform Probate Code and in existing law in most states as to which AIPRA is either silent or incomplete. This committee will collaborate with representatives of Tribal governments and others from Indian Country to draft a Model Tribal Probate Code that would supplement and “wrap around” AIPRA so as to be consistent with AIPRA and also better fulfill the purposes of both AIPRA and the Indian Land Consolidation Act.

Drafting Committee on Non-Parental Rights to Child Custody and Visitation

State legislation and judicial decisions vary greatly concerning the rights of third parties who are not parents (such as grandparents, stepparents, domestic partners, and siblings) to rights of custody of or visitation with a child. Those rights are also affected by the United States Supreme Court’s decision in *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57 (2000), which held that courts must give deference to decisions of fit parents concerning the raising of children, including concerning grandparents’ visitation rights. This drafting committee will draft an act concerning the rights of third parties other than parents to custody of or visitation with a child. The drafting committee is not authorized to undertake any revisions of the Uniform Parentage Act.

Drafting Committee to Revise the Uniform Principal and Income Act

Originally enacted in 1931 and then revised in 1962, UPAIA was last comprehensively revised in 1997. Much has changed in the nearly two decades since then. The drafting committee will undertake a number of revisions to bring the UPAIA up to date and to add a unitrust provision. Modern trust law requires a trustee to invest for the best total return and simultaneously to treat income and remainder beneficiaries impartially. In order to fulfill these duties, a trustee should be able to make adjustments between income and principal or to make a unitrust election. The drafting committee will address

many other issues, including (1) the treatment of money that a trust receives in partial liquidation of an entity in which the trust owns an interest and (2) the allocation of capital gains to income for income tax purposes.

Drafting Committee on Regulation of Virtual Currencies

This committee will consider the need for and feasibility of drafting state legislation on the regulation of virtual currencies, and will examine issues such as licensing requirements, reciprocity, consumer protection, cyber security, anti-money laundering, and supervision of licensees. The interest in virtual currency arises because it is allegedly safer from hacking, often cheaper and faster, and has finality of payment. Virtual currencies have legitimate purposes and can be purchased, sold, and exchanged with other types of virtual currencies or real currencies. In the absence of an overarching federal payments regulatory framework, these state laws need to be harmonized to the extent possible.

Drafting Committee on Series of Unincorporated Business Entities

The committee is drafting series provisions that can be added to some or all of the uniform unincorporated business organization acts other than the Uniform Statutory Trust Entity Act. The committee is also authorized to draft revisions to the series provisions in USTEPA if it believes such revisions are necessary.

Drafting Committee on Social Media Privacy

The use of social media in the United States is burgeoning. It is now not uncommon for employers to ask current and prospective employees to grant the employer access to social media accounts. Educational institutions also sometimes seek to examine the social media presence of current or prospective students. In 2012-2014, nineteen states enacted varying legislation on social media privacy, and numerous additional bills on these topics were introduced during the 2014 legislative sessions. This committee will draft legislation concerning employers' access to employees' or prospective employees' social media accounts and educational institutions' access to students' or prospective students' social media accounts; the committee's charge is limited to these issues.

Drafting Committee to Revise the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act

The ULC first drafted uniform state legislation on unclaimed property in 1954. That act was then substantially revised in 1981 and again in 1995. While about 40 states have enacted a version of one of the uniform acts, few recent adoptions

have occurred and various states in recent years have adopted revisions to their unclaimed property acts that are not consistent with the current Uniform Act. Many technological developments in recent years as well as new types of potential unclaimed property, such as gift cards, are not addressed in the current Uniform Act. This committee will draft a revision of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act in light of those developments.

Drafting Committee on Unsworn Domestic Declarations

The Uniform Unsworn Foreign Declarations Act (UUFDA) was adopted in 2008 and has since been enacted in 20 states. The Act authorizes the use of unsworn declarations made under penalty of perjury outside the United States in litigation that takes place in the United States. Federal legislation (28 U.S.C. Section 1746) is broader in that it also authorizes the use in federal court of unsworn declarations made under penalty of perjury within the United States. This drafting committee will draft both an amendment to UUFDA and freestanding state legislation that authorizes the use of unsworn declarations made under penalty of perjury within the United States in both interstate and intrastate situations.

Drafting Committee on Model Veterans' Court Act

Veterans' courts have been created in a number of judicial districts around the United States to ensure that veterans in the criminal justice system receive the treatment and support necessary to rehabilitate them into being productive members of society. Very few states have legislation on veterans' courts, but many local judicial districts have effectively created veterans' courts by rule or practice. This drafting committee will develop model state legislation that provides guidelines for the establishment of veterans' courts while permitting substantial local discretion necessary to accommodate particular circumstances in different communities. Some of the issues the committee will address include: what subset of veterans are entitled to diversion into a veterans' court; for what type of offenses is diversion into veterans' court appropriate; what rights should victims have to participate in proceedings in veterans' courts; and how, in general, should veterans' courts be organized and operated.

Drafting Committee on a Wage Garnishment Act

For many companies, even relatively small businesses if they operate in more than one state, payroll is handled centrally rather than in individual offices. Wage garnishments, however, are governed by widely varying law in all of the states. This creates difficulties and inefficiencies in complying with wage garnishment orders. This committee will draft an act on wage garnishment.

Study Committees

ULC Study Committees review an assigned area of law in light of defined criteria and recommend whether the ULC should proceed with a draft on that subject. Study Committees typically do not meet in-person. When appropriate, Study Committees hold meetings with those interested in the area that the committee is exploring in order to assist in gauging the need for uniform state legislation in an area, the likely scope of any drafting project, and the potential support for a project. ABA section advisors are appointed to Study Committees when such an appointment appears particularly useful.

The current study committees are:

Study Committee on a Computer Database Retrieval System for Land Records

The Uniform Real Property Electronic Recording Act (URPERA) was approved in 2004 and since has been adopted in 28 jurisdictions. A potential next step, particularly for states that have enacted URPERA, might be for states to adopt legislation that authorizes and establishes minimum requirements for a statewide system for recording, searching, and retrieving documents filed in the land records throughout the state. This study committee will consider the need for and feasibility of enacting state legislation on a computer database retrieval system for land records.

Joint Study Committee on Harmonization of the Law of Caribbean Nations and the United States Concerning Enforcement of Child Custody and Child Support Orders

As a result of discussions involving representatives of the ULC and Caribbean nations, this Joint Study Committee will study the need for and feasibility of harmonizing the law of Caribbean nations and the United States concerning enforcement in one country of child custody and child support orders entered in another country. The Joint Committee will seek to involve representatives of as many Caribbean governments and multi-national organizations in the Caribbean as are interested, and also will explore whether representatives of the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, or of the Canadian government, are interested in participating in this project.

Joint Study Committee on Harmonization of the Law of Canada, Caribbean Nations, and the United States Concerning Registration of Foreign Judgments

As a result of discussions involving representatives of the ULC, Caribbean nations, and the Uniform Law Conference of Canada, this Joint Study Committee will study the need for and feasibility of harmonizing the law of Canada, Caribbean nations and the United States concerning the registration in one country of final, conclusive and enforceable money judgments entered in another country in matters other than domestic relations matters. The Joint Committee will seek to involve representatives of as many Caribbean governments as are interested, and also relevant multi-national organizations in the Caribbean.

Study Committee on State Regulation of Driverless Cars

Autonomous vehicle technology is rapidly maturing, and that technology (or driverless cars) will soon be ready to test nationwide. Four states and the District of Columbia have already enacted legislation concerning some aspects of state regulation of driverless cars, and the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has issued guidelines for states that may seek to regulate driverless cars. This committee will study the need for and feasibility of drafting state legislation concerning the regulation of driverless cars.

Study Committee on the Transfer and Recording of Consumer Debt

Consumer debt, particularly past-due consumer credit-card debt, is frequently sold by the original creditor to other entities that specialize in debt collection. In 2013, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued a “Best Practices” document that expressed concern about safety, soundness, and consumer protection issues involved with such sales of consumer debt. Some have proposed the creation of a national debt registry, or multiple registries, that would track title to consumer debt that has been transferred. This committee will study the need for and feasibility of state legislation on the transfer and recording of consumer debt. It will also investigate the viability of a registration system to record transfers of consumer debt.

Study Committee on Regulation of Drones

Unmanned aircraft systems, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles or drones, have a range of applications, including law enforcement, wildlife tracking, search and rescue, land surveillance, border patrol, disaster response, and photography. The FAA's drone regulation largely focuses on regulation of the national airspace, with the ultimate goal of integrating drones into that airspace. Several states have enacted legislation addressing law enforcement use of drones. Some states have created crimes based on unlawful use of a drone, and have created civil penalties; these enactments aim to protect civilian privacy. Given the federal focus on airspace regulation, issues such as privacy and police use of drones has fallen to the states. This committee will study the need for regulating the use of drones.

Study Committee on Involuntary Pornography

Revenge porn is the common name for what is more accurately termed “nonconsensual pornography” or the “distribution of sexually graphic images of individuals without their consent,” whether or not the original images were obtained by consent, typically within the context of a private or confidential relationship. Nonconsensual pornography is particularly problematic when a victim's name and contact information are disclosed along with the photos. This leads to harassment, stalking, and solicitation by strangers who have seen the images, and can also result in destruction of reputation and lost employment opportunities. The internet compounds such effects because it provides a convenient conduit for nonconsensual pornography to be disseminated and spread rapidly. This committee will study the need for state legislation to provide remedies for people who are victimized by involuntary pornography.

Editorial Boards

Six Editorial Boards have been appointed with respect to uniform Acts in various subject areas. These Boards are responsible for monitoring new developments which may have an impact on the Acts and for making recommendations for revising existing Acts or drafting new Acts in their subject areas. The Editorial Boards are made up of members from the Uniform Law Commission, the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute, and other organizations.

Permanent Editorial Board for Uniform Commercial Code

Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Family Law

Joint Editorial Board on International Law

Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Real Property Acts

Joint Editorial Board for Uniform Trust and Estate Acts

Joint Editorial Board on Uniform Unincorporated Organization Acts



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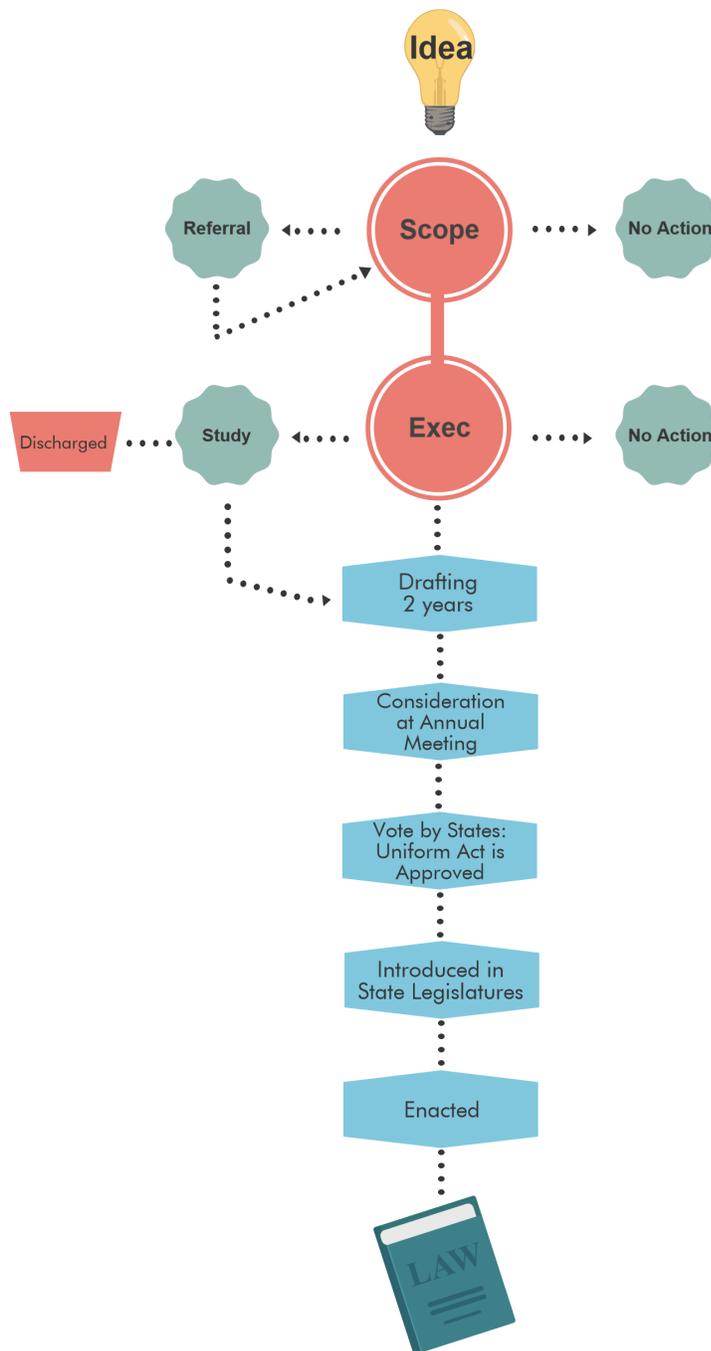
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