

## HELP SUPPORT THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THE ULC

The ULC receives the predominant portion of its funding from state appropriations based on each state's population. In return, the ULC provides the states with two related services: drafting uniform state laws on subjects where uniformity is desirable and practicable, and then supporting the effort to enact completed laws.

The demand and need for uniform laws is not abating and continues to grow, just as the need for additional financial resources which are necessary to continue drafting uniform laws continues to grow. Conversely, state appropriations have not kept pace with financial needs, and have become more tenuous as states are often forced to shift limited funds to other budgetary items from year to year.

The Uniform Law Foundation (Foundation), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was established in 1990 to support the activities of the ULC. The Foundation supplements the funds provided to the ULC by its constituent governmental entities and other sources. These supplemental funds ensure that adequate financial resources are available to enable the ULC to maintain its high standards of excellence, while continuing the important work of developing uniform and model laws which are critical to the states, businesses and citizens of this country.

All those who contribute to the Foundation can do so knowing they are supporting the important juristic work of a preeminent organization, while becoming a part of the history of American jurisprudence.

## UNIFORM LAW FOUNDATION

*Strengthening the foundation of the  
Uniform Law Commission.*

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# CASE FOR SUPPORT

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## A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

For more than a century, the Uniform Law Commission (ULC), also known as the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (Conference), has been a bastion of American jurisprudence. Conceived by state governments in 1892, the ULC was established to consider state law, determine in which areas of the law uniformity is important, and then draft uniform and model acts for consideration and enactment by the states. The states have chosen to maintain the ULC because throughout its tenure the organization has been extremely beneficial to citizens, businesses and state legislatures.

In the report for the first meeting of the ULC which was held in August of 1892, it is stated that:

*It is probably not too much to say that this is the most important juristic work undertaken in the United States since the adoption of the Federal Constitution.*

This profound statement remains as germane today as it was in 1892, and the ULC remains deeply committed to the important juristic work it continues to undertake year after year. Since its inception the ULC has successfully drafted more than 250 uniform and model laws, which have attained widespread enactment among the states. These well-conceived laws bring clarity and stability in diverse areas of the law that are common to all jurisdictions. In a letter in support for the 100th anniversary of the Conference, Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who served as a Commissioner from 1963 through 1969, deftly described the Conference as follows:

*I think the real genius of the Conference's "founding fathers," and of the men and women who have succeeded them, was to create and maintain an organization which could deal with the need for national uniformity of laws without displacing the state courts. Congress can achieve national uniformity in a particular area of the law by passing a federal statute, but the dominant voice and the interpretation of such a statute is that of the federal courts. With a uniform law it is otherwise; the supreme courts of the states retain their authority as to what a state uniform law means, but they have every incentive to interpret it to conform to the holdings of other courts construing the same law.*

**William H. Rehnquist**

Chief Justice of the United States, 1986 – 2005  
Commissioner, Uniform Law Commission, 1963 – 1969

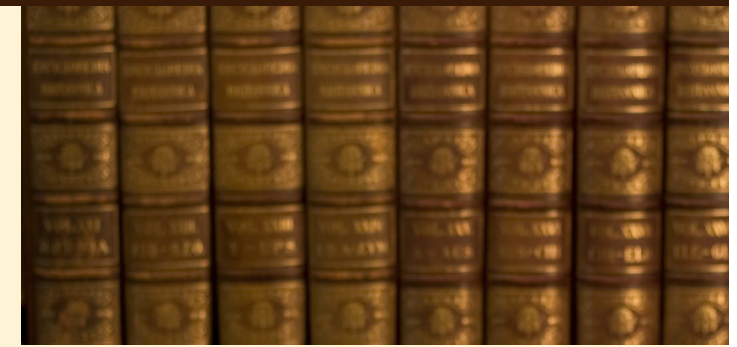
In more than 117 years of service to state and territorial governments the ULC has earned a reputation as both an expert statutory drafting organization, and a non-partisan developer of significant advances in state law. Included among the important work of the ULC are such pivotal contributions to state law as the Uniform Commercial Code, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, the Uniform Partnership Act, the Uniform Probate Code, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, and the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act.

## THE COMMISSION AT WORK

Today, the ULC brings together more than 300 of the country's most astute legal minds to develop non-partisan uniform state laws. These 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 practicable. The Commissioners devote thousands of hours of time each year to ULC-related activities, yet they do not receive any payment for their tireless work. Essentially, the Commissioners provide a significant public service to the states and citizens of this country.

It is a very meticulous and lengthy process that the Commissioners undertake when developing a uniform or model law. The process usually takes at least two years to complete, and entails separate study and drafting phases. After the drafting phase is complete and an act has been adopted by the ULC, efforts focus on educational and outreach initiatives to promote enactment by state legislatures.

Although the Commissioners do not receive any payment for their study, drafting, education and outreach efforts, there are other expenses associated with the development of each uniform law, such as: stakeholder events; reporter stipends; committee meeting costs; educational and outreach initiatives; and administrative costs. Despite the complexity and longevity it is a very cost-effective process, especially in light of the fact that all states can ultimately benefit from the well-conceived uniform laws that are promulgated by the ULC. More important, no single state has the breadth



of resources that are available to the ULC that are necessary to duplicate this careful, non-partisan effort.

## TODAY'S GROWING DEMANDS

The ULC was established by the states in 1892 at a time when there was a need for a common and predictable nationwide legal system. At that time, the nation was expanding its borders, becoming more industrialized and acquiring the means of transcontinental travel. It is likely that few would have envisioned the sophisticated and rapid advances in technology and transportation that are available in today's society, which has created unprecedented opportunities for interstate social and economic growth. However, laws cannot keep pace with these rapid advances, and businesses and individuals are often faced with a myriad of laws that differ from state to state. Requests for uniform laws have steadily increased, and the demands on the ULC grow with each passing year. Now, more than ever, there is a need for a cohesive nation-wide legal system.

The uniform and model laws promulgated by the ULC help to provide for a more unified, stable and predictable legal system among the states. This unified legal system significantly contributes to the general welfare of the citizens of the United States and its territories by: facilitating commerce; increasing the understanding of and respect for the laws of the states; and, assisting the citizens of the states in their pursuit of the benefits of a free society. Equally important, the ULC continues to strengthen the role of state law in our federal system. Without a state-sponsored national institution such as the ULC, more and more legislative activity would shift from the state capitols to Washington, DC. The ULC is committed to continuing its important work that helps states maintain their independence, while achieving a uniform legal system for the nation.