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CRIV Website

www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Leadership-Governance/committee/activecmtes/criv.html

CRIV Tools

www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Advocacy/vendorrelations/CRIV-Tools

The CRIV Sheet

Editor's Corner

This issue of *The CRIV Sheet* contains a variety of articles dealing with access to information—some provided by legal information vendors, some not. Brian Huffman's article summarizes the new *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act*. Clanitra Stewart's submission provides a review of ProQuest's congressional and legislative insight. My article

summarizes the Minnesota State Law Library's efforts to make appellate briefs available to the public.

As always, *The CRIV Sheet* editors are looking for articles from AALL members on topics relating to vendor relations and the legal information industry. Please send article ideas to me or Associate Editor David Hollander.

Michelle Cosby North Carolina Central University School of Law Library

From the Chair

Welcome to the second edition of *The CRIV Sheet* for the 2012-2013 term! Since our first issue of the term, CRIV has handled several requests for assistance from AALL members. To see the results of these requests, as well as any future resolutions, please follow The CRIV Blog at crivblog.com. We are interested in your comments, so feel free to post your thoughts to our blog.

Additionally, the CRIV Web Pages and Tools Committee is working to improve the user experience for the Vendor Relations page at www.aallnet.org/main-menu/Advocacy/vendorrelations. Explanations of each section have been added, and the content is now alphabetized. The committee is currently evaluating the content of each page and updating it as necessary. CRIV would like to thank Chris Siwa,

AALL's director of information technology, for his assistance in these projects.

CRIV has also created a new committee, the CRIV Marketing Committee, which has been meeting, and a plan is underway to advertise CRIV and CRIV services. Please check The CRIV Blog or AALL listservs that have a CRIV liaison to learn more about CRIV as this term progresses. Listserv liaison information is available on the first page of this issue.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the librarians and vendors for their nominations for the New Product Award. The New Product Award is given to a commercial product that is less than two years old that adds value to our profession. The award will be given at the 2013 Annual Meeting in Seattle.

Brian R. Huffman Dakota County Law Library

UELMA: Summary, Minnesota Perspective, and Impact

Much has already been written about the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA)*. This article offers a brief overview.

Summary of Law

The act was approved in 2011 by the Uniform Law Commission (ULC). The law provides an outcomes-based, technology-neutral framework for providing online legal material with the same level of trustworthiness traditionally provided by publication in a law book while preserving legal material in perpetuity, allowing for permanent access.

The act requires that official electronic legal material be:

- Authenticated by providing a method to determine that it is unaltered
- Preserved, either in electronic or print form
- Accessible for use by the public on a permanent basis.

For each type of legal material, the state must name a state agency or official as the "official publisher." For official electronic legal material, the official publisher has the responsibility to authenticate, preserve, and provide access to the material.

At a minimum, legal material that is covered by the act includes the state constitution, session laws, codified laws or statutes, and state agency rules with the effect of law. In addition, states may choose to include court rules and decisions, state administrative agency decisions, or other legal material. *UELMA* does not require authentication of judicial information such as court rules and case law “because in some states the judicial branch is the official publisher of those materials” and such requirement could involve separation of powers issues.

UELMA is an ideal extension of the AALL State Inventory project. Having a clear understanding of exactly what online legal materials each state authenticates, lists as official, preserves, and allows for permanent public access is key to knowing which states are prepared for *UELMA* or where more work is needed. Preliminary analysis of the inventory indicates little change in states authenticating materials since 2009, but there have been increases in states citing online legal materials as official.

Progress So Far

In 2012, *UELMA* was introduced in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Tennessee. Thus far, Colorado and California are the only two states that have enacted *UELMA*. AALL members continue to work with their uniform law commissioners and legislative liaisons to promote enactment of *UELMA* in their states. The states where the uniform law commissioner has put *UELMA* on the enactment plan for 2013 are Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Utah.

Minnesota Experience

Minnesota is a prime example of hard work and good intentions gone awry. AALL members were contacted to support passage of House File 2527 and Senate File 2476. Staff from the Minnesota Office of the Revisor

of Statutes made appearances at key committee hearings. Local Minnesota Association of Law Libraries members drafted letters of support, and a plea to call key legislators was issued. In the end, the bill made it through the House Civil Law Committee and stalled at the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

In retrospect, passage of the law was sidetracked by a perennial political juggernaut: the Vikings stadium. As politicking over the stadium entrenched the legislators, this bill, along with many others, became a political victim. There was not enough time as the deadlines sailed by. Renewed awareness has ensured continued interest and hopeful passage of *UELMA* in 2013.

How This Will Affect Publishers

UELMA was drafted to have no effect on relationships between an official state publisher and a commercial vendor that produces the legal material, leaving such relationships to contract law. Copyright in state publications will also be unaffected. The *UELMA* Drafting Committee received input from several legal publishers, including Thomson Reuters, Lexis, and Fastcase.

For More Information

The best way to advocate is to share information with colleagues and learn what’s happening in other states. You can join the *UELMA* Advocates Community on AALLNET’s My Communities page to connect and prepare yourself for the months ahead. See the *UELMA* Resources website on AALLNET and Uniform Law Commission for more information.

UELMA Summary (2012):
www.uniformlaws.org/ActSummary.aspx?title=Electronic%20Legal%20Material%20Act

UEMLA Summary and FAQs:
www.aallnet.org/Documents/Government-Relations/UELMA/UELMAFAQs.pdf