



DANJ

Documents Association

of New Jersey

June 21, 2012

John M. Cannel
Executive Director
New Jersey Law Revision Commission
153 Halsey Street, 7th Floor
Newark, NJ 07102

VIA FACSIMILE: 973-648-3123

Dear Mr. Cannel:

On behalf of the Documents Association of New Jersey, I am writing to recommend positive action on the Uniform Electronic Legal Materials Act (UELMA) at today's meeting of the New Jersey Law Revision Commission.

New Jersey is increasingly moving toward electronic publication of primary legal materials. Ten years ago there were over 50 libraries in New Jersey that were official state depositories that regularly received print copies of state publications. Last year that number was reduced to just six libraries. The diminishing access to official print copies of the State's primary legal materials makes it critical that the electronic versions of these documents be available in an authenticated format that will be preserved and permanently available to the public.

Currently, New Jersey State electronic publications are not authenticated, they are not designated as official, and plans for preservation and permanent public access are at best incomplete, and in some instances, completely lacking. UELMA provides an excellent framework for safeguarding New Jersey's electronic legal information going forward. The most cost effective way to provide for these safeguards is to put them in place when the information is created. Embedding digital signatures for authentication is easily done when a document is created. Similarly, digital preservation and permanent public access can be best ensured by adopting clear rules and standards. UELMA does this. Its adoption will ensure protection and preservation of State legal materials and result in long-term savings for New Jersey taxpayers.