**Presentation for House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee**

*January 24, 2019 by Kimberly Lowe, Bob Tennessen, and Michele Timmons, Uniform Law Commissioners*

**What is the Uniform Law Commission?**

* 125-year-old non-profit, non-partisan organization – founded in 1892
* Objective to draft and promote uniform state laws on subjects where uniformity is desirable and practical
* ULC promotes federalism – helps preserve role of the states
* Commissioners are all attorneys appointed by the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
* ULC is funded primarily by state dues appropriated by state legislatures
* Commissioners serve without compensation for their time

**What is the ULC Drafting Process?**

* Typically takes two or three years to draft a uniform act
* Drafting committees comprised of commissioners, plus a reporter to perform drafting, with a liaison from the American Bar Association, and observers from relevant industry or interest groups
* Annual meeting is like a legislative session – proposed uniform acts are amended by committee of the whole and approved by vote of the states
* Commissioners must attend annual meeting unless excused by ULC

**Who are the Minnesota Uniform Law Commissioners?** *Under Minnesota Statutes 3.251, three persons appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court; the Revisor of Statutes; any persons who have been appointed for 20 years or more:*

* House Speaker Melissa Hortman (2011)
* Kimberly Lowe (2016)
* Garry W. Jenkins (2018)
* Revisor Ryan Inman (2018)

Life members include: Hon. Jack Davies (1966), Harry Haynsworth (1992), Hon. Harriet Lansing (1993), Robert Stein (1973), Michael Sullivan (1971), Bob Tennessen (1989), Michele Timmons (1998), and Harry Walsh (1971)

**How Many Uniform Acts Has Minnesota Enacted?**

* Minnesota has enacted 145 uniform and model acts
* This places Minnesota in the top 10% for enactment of uniform acts
* And makes Minnesota a national leader

**Are Minnesota Uniform Law Commissioners Active Volunteers?**

**Yes, Here in Minnesota:**

* *Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act*
* Former Minnesota Senator Bob Tennessen led effort for ULC
* Enacted in 2018 as Minn. Stat. Secs. 81A.22 to 81A.37
* Enhances protections for student athletes
* *Revised Uniform Law on Notarial Acts*
  + Commissioners Michele Timmons and Kim Lowe led study group of 30 stakeholders through 13 meetings over 7 months to reach consensus on recommendations to Minnesota Legislature
  + Enacted in 2018 as Minn. Stat. Secs. 358.51 to 358.76
  + Permits Minnesota notaries to perform remote notarizations using technology, with registration, technological, and procedural requirements

**Yes, Nationally:**

* Three Minnesotans – Michael Sullivan, Robert Stein, and Harriet Lansing -

have served as ULC President, each for a 2 year term

* Speaker Melissa Hortman has served as Vice President, also for 2 years
* Bob Tennessen has served as ULC Legislative Chair
* Michele Timmons is Enactment Chair for the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act, which has now been enacted in 20 states
* Jack Davies is currently serving on the Alternatives to Bail Drafting Committee

**Yes, Internationally:**

* Robert Stein is Chair of the International Legal Developments Committee
* Hon. Harriet Lansing represents the ULC as part of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law