

Washington Uniform Law Commission (WULC)

May 9, 2012

Present: Anita Ramasastry (AR), chair; Marlin Appelwick (MA); John Cary (JC); Dennis Cooper (DC); Jamie Pedersen (JP); Kyle Thiessen (KT)

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 PM.

Approval of Minutes

The commissioners approved the February 8, 2012, minutes and will post them to the WULC Website, <http://www.ulc.wa.gov/>.

Legislative Update

JP reported that, during its recent session, the state legislature passed three uniform acts: *Interstate Depositions and Discovery*; *Uniform Commercial Code Article 1*; and *Uniform Commercial Code Article 7*. Meanwhile, *Correction of Defamation*, *Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)*, *Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA)*, and *Collaborative Law* died in the senate.

Next year JP proposes to re-introduce *UIFSA* and *Collaborative Law*. *UIFSA* stands an improved chance of passing after the U.S. Congress has acted on it. DC can work with WSBA attorney Kathryn Leathers regarding whether to do *Collaborative Law* by rule or by law. If the bar, which favors some rules, does not move on *Collaborative Law* this year, then JP feels comfortable doing it entirely by law during the next legislative session.

The house judiciary committee will do a work session with *UETA* stakeholders, either in September or during Assembly Days in December. The WSBA Business Law Section, in particular the cyberspace lawyers, has a stake in this act.

AR is working with the national Uniform Law Commission (ULC) to do a CLE in August or September around the *Uniform Law on Notarial Acts* for possible introduction during the next legislative session.

Website Updates

JP will work with KT to update the WULC Website. MA will update the chart of uniform laws that have been enacted in Washington, <http://ulc.wa.gov/UniformLawsAdoptedinWashington.pdf>.

Annual Meeting

All the commissioners except KT plan to attend the ULC annual meeting. JP will put together a work plan. AR will ask the other commissioners to send dates when they could attend dinner together. Harriet Lansing would like the commissioners to attend lunch on July 17th. The travel freeze for state employees still applies to the WULC, so AR will request a travel waiver. A discussion of airfares took place, with commissioners noting that the state prefers that its employees book their airfare through an agency that offers state-contract airfares; and that a non-contract airfare, if purchased, should not cost more than the contract airfare.

Budget

The Statute Law Committee will meet on May 30 to finalize the budget. KT projects that the budget will fund half the annual dues to the ULC as well as \$10,000 for travel. JP's legislative expense account will pay his travel expenses. [Note from RB: Whereas my notes say that the budget will likely provide \$15,000 for travel expenses, KT corrected this, via a subsequent email message, to \$10,000. Meanwhile, the travel waiver that AR submitted and that the Office of Financial Management approved in June asks for \$12,000 for travel expenses and includes JP's travel expenses.] The Statute Law Committee is building a budget for the next biennium and is assuming that they will have full funding. The 2014 ULC annual meeting will take place in Seattle which will reduce travel costs and possibly also lodging costs.

Annual Meeting at the Westin in Seattle in 2014

JP met with Harriet Lansing and Michael Houghton of the ULC who are asking the WULC to raise \$100,000 in local corporate support. This could derive in part from large law firms contributing venues for receptions. In the past, uniform acts dealing with estates, real property, and UCC 2A have drawn support from local lawyers in larger firms. Active fundraising can begin between the 2012 ULC annual meeting and the 2013 ULC annual meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM.