



An Introduction to the Uniform Law Commission

Lunch and Learn

March 29, 2023

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What is the ULC?

The Uniform Law Commission is:

- The oldest state governmental organization in existence. Since 1892 it has fulfilled a primary role in the U.S. for the improvement of state law
- An organization of legal professionals devoted to improvement of statutory law

Key Facts

- Headquartered in Chicago
- Funded by state governments – not industry or the federal government



ULC Membership

The current membership consists of more than 350 lawyers, who fall generally into five categories:

- Private Practitioners (40%)
- Governmental Lawyers (14%)
- State Legislators (10%)
- State and Federal Judges (5%)
- Law Professors (13%)

Appointment

- Each state determines the mode of appointment and the size of its delegation.
- In Alaska, the governor appoints voting commissioners; the Alaska Supreme Court appoints one voting member; after serving for 20 years, a commissioner may become a non-voting Life Member; the Director of Legislative Legal Services is a non-voting member ex officio.

Alaska Delegation

Voting Members:

- Rebecca Polizzotto (Chair) – Chief Assistant Attorney General
- Peter Maassen - Alaska Supreme Court Chief Justice
- Treg Taylor – Alaska Attorney General
- Andrew Hemenway – Retired Alaska Administrative Law Judge

Ex Officio:

- Megan Wallace – Director, Legislative Legal Services

Life Members:

- Deborah Behr – Retired Chief Assistant Attorney General
- Grant Callow – Attorney in Private Practice
- Art Peterson – Retired Attorney

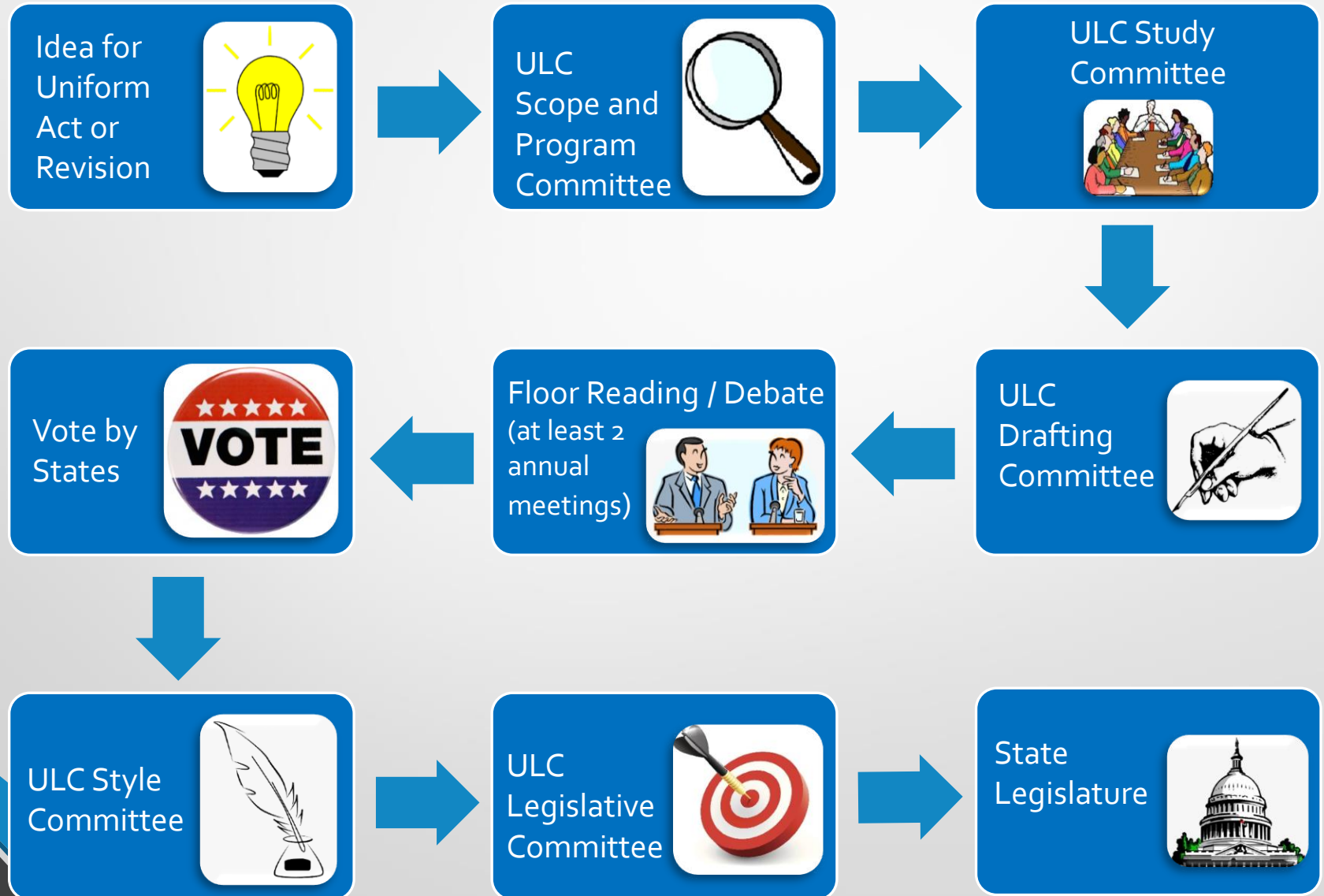
The Work of Commissioners

Commissioners represent their states, *without compensation*, by:

- Serving on ULC study, drafting and other committees
- Representing their appointing state at the ULC Annual Meeting
- Carrying uniform and model acts back to their states and working to assist their legislature in its consideration



How a Uniform Act is Born



ULC's Role in the Federal System of the U.S.

- ULC's work reduces pressure for federal preemption due to inconsistent state law.
- ULC helps sustain state sovereignty while achieving a harmonized interstate legal system.
- Harmonization of state law reduces costs and uncertainty, while still allowing local flexibility and variation.

Legislative Action Required to Become Law

- No uniform or model act becomes law until it is approved by each state's respective legislative and executive branches. The Uniform Law Commissioners may propose, but the state legislatures must dispose.
- Uniform Law Commissioners do not draft legislation for Congress, and generally oppose efforts to federalize subject areas in which uniform and model acts are drafted.

Benefits of Uniform Acts

Uniform acts:

- Facilitate the flow of commercial transactions across state lines
- Resolve conflict of laws problems
- Provide reciprocity of rights and remedies between the states and their residents
- Fill emergent legal needs, modernize outdated laws and legal doctrines

Common ULC Subject Matter Areas

- Commercial Law
- Business Organization Formation
- Family or Domestic Relations Law
- Estates, Probate, and Trusts
- Real Estate Transactions
- Interstate Enforcement of Judgments
- Mediation and Arbitration
- Administrative Procedure



Exceptional Process

The ULC drafting process is open to the public and combines input from legal experts, advisors, and observers representing the views of interested groups affected by the proposed laws.

Exceptional Value

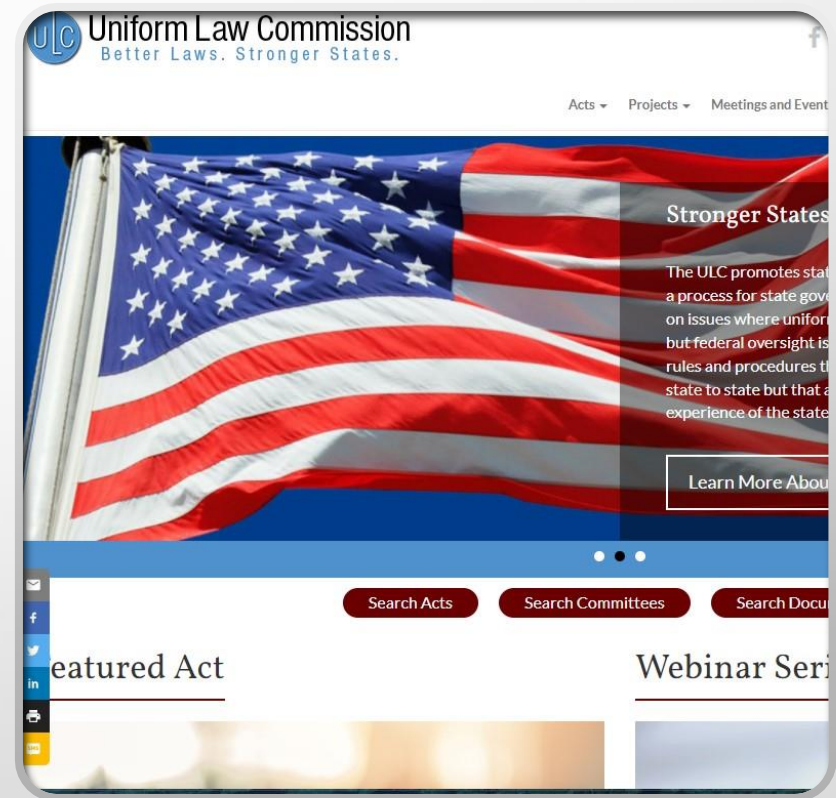
- Each ULC drafting project represents a minimum of at least \$1.2 million worth of donated legal expertise.
- The ULC has the ability to provide focused, sustained attention to highly technical areas of law, which would otherwise not be available to most state legislatures.
- To date, Alaska has enacted into law **107** different uniform acts.

ULC website:

www.uniformlaws.org

The ULC website contains:

- Organizational information;
- Current drafting committees;
- Press releases;
- Legislative information and enactment status of acts, updated regularly;
- Drafts of current projects and texts of final acts, as well as summaries and other related information.





Questions?

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