

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

*January 21, 2021 by Kimberly Lowe 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
- [Introduction to the Uniform Law Commission](#)

### **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:**

These Uniform Acts are planned for introduction in 2021:

- Amendment to the Uniform Athlete Agents Act
- Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act
- Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Protection Orders
- Uniform Registration of Canadian Money Judgments Act
- Uniform Pretrial Release and Detention Act
- Uniform Wage Garnishment Act

### **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 Chair of a new Study Committee on Cybercrime and Enactment Chair for the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act
- Jack Davies served on the Uniform Pretrial Release and Detention Act Drafting Committee
- Kim Lowe is currently serving on:
  - Funding Through Public Appeals Committee
  - Tenancy in Common Ownership Default Rules Committee
  - Study Committee on Public Health Emergency Authorities
  - Online Sales Tax Collection Committee
  - Supply Chain Transparency Committee
  - Unincorporated Organization Acts 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

