Facilities of the Law Library of Congress (Report No. 115)

RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports the Library of Congress and its Law Library in their efforts to secure reasonable cost recovery for specialized services such as identification of foreign law sources and expedited document delivery, while also affirming the basic principle of free access to core library services for the public while providing adequate safeguards for copyrighted works and private sector competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports efforts to secure the level of appropriations necessary to enable the Library of Congress and its Law Library to maintain and enhance their many services to the nation and the legal community.
At the 1932 Annual Meeting, the House of Delegates created the Standing Committee on Facilities of the Law Library of Congress and adopted a resolution stating that "the American Bar Association favors the continued development of the facilities of the Law Library of Congress to the end that it becomes the nation's principal repository of legal literature and sources." Since its establishment, the Standing Committee has supported efforts to develop and improve both the facilities and the collection of the Law Library of Congress.

The need for foreign, international, and comparative law sources and services is a growing concern of the American Bar Association in its effort to ensure that legal information is available to its members and the public.

The Library of Congress and its Law Library's foreign, international, and comparative collections are without peer. The Library would like to enhance services to the legal community, but is not currently authorized to provide specialized services for a fee.

Legislation has been introduced to enable the Library of Congress and its units, including the Law Library, to extend and enhance services to the nation by assuring cost recovery for specialized services. The legal community could be a principal beneficiary of these enhanced services, and therefore should support the efforts of the Library of Congress to gain passage of this legislation.

The Law Library of Congress is widely acknowledged to be the greatest law library in the world, and the Standing Committee's goal of assuring this preeminence has largely been achieved, but vigilance is now required to ensure that the Law Library's appropriation remains at a level necessary to its continued development in difficult economic times.
The Library of Congress, an unparalleled repository of the world's knowledge, must be given the public support necessary to ensure that appropriations will be sufficient to enable the Library to play a key role in providing electronic access to its collections in addition to the many other services it provides to the nation and the world. The overall Library of Congress appropriation affects the Law Library's ability to fund its services to the nation's legal community.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles McC.Mathias
Chair, Standing Committee on Facilities of the Law Library of Congress

February 1993
1. Summary of Recommendation(s).

This recommendation calls for the American Bar Association to support the Library of Congress and its Law Library in their efforts to secure reasonable cost recovery for specialized services and to support efforts to secure the level of appropriations necessary to enable the Library of Congress and its Law Library to maintain and enhance their many services to the nation and the legal community.

2. Approval by Submitting Entity.

Approved by the Committee September 21, 1992.

3. Previous submission to the House or relevant Association position.

None.

4. What existing Association policies are relevant to this recommendation and how would they be affected by this if adopted?

In November 1991, the Committee submitted a request to the Board of Governors, which the Board approved, that the Association support the budget request of the Law Library of Congress, and that the ABA President or his designee submit testimony on behalf of the Law Library's budget to the appropriate committees of the Congress. This recommendation would renew Association support for the Library of Congress and its Law Library in the appropriation process.

5. Need for Action at this Meeting.

The Committee anticipates that legislation will be introduced in the next Congress to enable the Library of Congress and its units, including the Law Library, to extend and enhance services to the nation by assuring cost recovery for specialized services.
6. **Cost to the Association.** (Both direct and indirect costs.)

   None

7. **Disclosure of Interest.** (If applicable.)

   None

8. **Referrals.**

   All Sections and Divisions.

9. **Contact Person.** (Prior to the meeting.)

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10. **Contact Person.** (Who will present the report to the House.)

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