

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
OFFICE

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

Governmental Affairs Office

740 Fifteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005-1022
(202) 662-1760
FAX: (202) 662-1762

DIRECTOR

Robert D. Evans
(202) 662-1765
rdevans@staff.abanet.org

SENIOR LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Denise A. Cardman
(202) 662-1761
cardmand@staff.abanet.org

Kevin J. Driscoll
(202) 662-1766
driscollk@staff.abanet.org

Lillian B. Gaskin
(202) 662-1768
gaskinl@staff.abanet.org

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

R. Larson Frisby
(202) 662-1098
frisbyr@staff.abanet.org

Kristi Gaines
(202) 662-1763
gainesk@staff.abanet.org

Kenneth J. Goldsmith
(202) 662-1789
goldsmithk@staff.abanet.org

Ellen McBarnette
(202) 662-1767
mcbarnee@staff.abanet.org

E. Bruce Nicholson
(202) 662-1769
nicholsonb@staff.abanet.org

DIRECTOR GRASSROOTS
OPERATIONS/LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Julie M. Strandlie
(202) 662-1764
strandlj@staff.abanet.org

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAW CONSULTANT

Hayden Gregory
(202) 662-1772
gregoryh@staff.abanet.org

STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Rita C. Aguilar
(202) 662-1780
aguilarr@staff.abanet.org

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Julie Pasatiempo
(202) 662-1776
jpasatiempo@staff.abanet.org

STAFF DIRECTOR FOR
INFORMATION SERVICES

Sharon Greene
(202) 662-1014
greenes@staff.abanet.org

EDITOR WASHINGTON LETTER

Rhonda J. McMillion
(202) 662-1017
mcmillionr@staff.abanet.org

March 3, 2006

The Honorable Wayne A. Allard, Chairman
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Allard and Ranking Member Durbin:

I write to you today to express the support of the 410,000 members of the American Bar Association for full funding for the Library of Congress and the Law Library of Congress. With reminders of potential threats to national security, the globalization of our economy and our role in supporting the rule of law around the world, we believe it is imperative that Congress affirm its commitment to these institutions, the largest and most prestigious of their kind.

It is particularly critical that sufficient funding be appropriated for the proper functioning of the Law Library of Congress. The Law Library is a living resource whose work supports the rule of law worldwide. It is a collection available to Congress to understand complex legal issues, and it is a vital source of information for the Congressional Research Service.

Yet, as much as one third of the Law Library's collection remains on shelves awaiting classification, accessible to only a handful of

knowledgeable staff. Reclassification of the Law Library's collection under its own system, a system adopted as the global standard, has been postponed for three years due to a lack of funding. Meanwhile, the cost of acquiring and maintaining legal publications continues to climb.

We appreciate that a difficult process of prioritization is required under the current budget climate. We cannot stress enough the need for adequate funding that would enable the completion of the classification project, making the whole collection available to all. Full funding of the Library of Congress and the Law Library of Congress is an investment in the repositories that sustain us as a nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert D. Evans". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Robert D. Evans