

Thomas M. Susman  
Director  
Governmental Affairs Office

AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
740 Fifteenth Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005-1022  
(202) 662-1760  
FAX: (202) 662-1762  
SusmanT@staff.abanet.org

July 1, 2009

Dear Conferee:

As you prepare to reconcile differences between House and Senate approved funding levels under FY 2010 Legislative Branch appropriations legislation, I write to urge on behalf of the American Bar Association your support for an appropriation of \$2.7 million for the Global Legal Information Network (GLIN). As you know GLIN is a project of the Library of Congress responsible for advancing the respect and rule of law worldwide.

GLIN's unique collection of the past 60 years of digitized laws from member nations not only accords users from those countries unparalleled access and transparency to the laws which govern them, but for many it is the only meaningful such access they or we have. The consequence of failing to support GLIN is therefore to impede transparency in government for the people of the growing list of participating jurisdictions, currently comprised of 33 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas in addition to our own and 3 international organizations. This in turn leaves more vulnerable the security of the people and the stability of international commerce, including American enterprise abroad.

The \$2.7 million requested represents that level necessary to maintain core operations and necessary improvement to its technology infrastructure. Given the project's mission and contribution to the rule of law, we believe this funding represents a wise leveraging of American taxpayer dollars into our national security and commercial interests, particularly during a recovering global economy.

The House of Representatives through H.R. 2918 approved full-funding for GLIN. The Senate, in S. 1294, made no appropriation for GLIN. We urge you to follow the lead of the House of Representatives and appropriate the funding necessary to continue this invaluable resource.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Susman