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The Honorable William Monning
Majority Leader
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 313
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Monning:

On behalf of the American Bar Association (ABA) and its more than 410,000 members, including over 42,000 members in California, I write to express the ABA's support for Senate Bill 766, to authorize out-of-state and foreign attorneys to represent parties in international commercial arbitrations held in California.

The ABA has long supported efforts to allow lawyers to effectively serve their clients, at home and abroad, through cross-border practice. To facilitate this goal, the ABA has adopted several Model Rules that seek to facilitate access by foreign lawyers in the United States, including the Model Rule for Temporary Practice by Foreign Lawyers, on which we understand SB 766 is partially based. The ABA also has adopted a policy specifically urging that parties to international arbitration be allowed representation by counsel of their choice, regardless of whether the lawyer is admitted in the jurisdiction where the arbitration takes place.

We were encouraged to note that SB 766 recently passed the Senate and hope that the Assembly takes it up in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Thomas M. Susman