



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES
<http://www.nocall.org>

July 25, 2008

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
United States House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0516

Dear Representative Lofgren:

On behalf of the Northern California Association of Law Libraries (NOCALL), I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 6589 this week to improve funding for the Law Library of Congress. NOCALL strongly supports the Charles H.W. Meehan Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act because it will benefit greatly the law libraries in northern California and the thousands of users whom we serve. We are very pleased that H.R. 6589, when enacted, will allow the Law Library to fulfill its mission of providing timely access to its collections not just to Congress and legal researchers in the D.C. area, but also to your constituents here in northern California.

NOCALL is the professional association serving the needs of legal information professionals throughout the northern California area. It has over 400 members representing more than 100 law libraries in the Bay Area and surrounding counties. NOCALL is a chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), a non-profit educational organization whose mission is to promote and enhance the value of law libraries to the legal and public communities, to foster the profession of law librarianship, and to provide leadership in the field of legal information and information policy.

As law librarians, NOCALL members fully support the need for increased funding for the Law Library. We were pleased that, with your support, AALL's Immediate Past President Ann T. Fessenden was invited to testify before the Committee on House Administration at the October 24, 2007 Oversight Hearing on The Library of Congress. Ms. Fessenden noted specifically that the Law Library must have necessary funds to maintain its journal subscriptions and purchase new treatises and to complete the K reclassification project. Without such reclassification, important resources, many of which are foreign legal documents, cannot be located in the Law Library's collections therefore are not accessible to researchers and the public. She also urged the Committee to consider authorizing a separate line item in the Federal budget for the Law Library.

We thank you for agreeing with us that these long-standing budget issues need to be fixed, and for your personal effort to draft and introduce the Charles H.W. Meehan Law Library Improvement and Modernization Act. We fully support each of the important provisions of your bill.

- Section 2: The authorization for a one-time, additional \$3.5 M for the Law Library of Congress is crucial so that the Law Library can renew cancelled subscriptions, purchase important new treatises, and step up its efforts to reclassify approximately 680,000 volumes into the K classification structure. Without timely reclassification, these important resources are simply not accessible. Many of them are foreign legal documents important to the global economy.
- Section 3: We believe that the authorization for a separate line item in the Federal budget for the Law Library is absolutely essential to provide improved visibility and accountability for the Law Library, as well as long overdue transparency to its annual budget process; and,

- Section 4: The establishment of the Charles H.W. Meehan Law Library Support Program will allow outside funding to be raised and provided to the Law Library for new enhanced services that are very important to legal researchers and the public here in Northern California. These include inter-library loan and document delivery, services which are not available to us today.

Together, these provisions will bring the Law Library up to the standards we expect from our Nation's de facto national law library. When the K reclassification project is completed and these new enhanced services are implemented, law libraries in northern California finally will be able to assist your constituents in accessing the rich tangible collections available at the Law Library.

Rep. Lofgren, NOCALL is very grateful to you for your tireless efforts in drafting and introducing this important legislation. Our members are committed to working with you to ensure that H.R. 6589 is enacted this year. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly Browne". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Kelly Browne
President
Northern California Association of Law Libraries

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