

March 14, 2003

AFFECT APPOINTS ROBERT E. HIRSHON AS NATIONAL COUNSEL

Washington D. C. - Americans for Fair Electronic Commerce Transactions (AFFECT) today announced the appointment of Robert E. Hirshon, Immediate Past President of the American Bar Association (ABA), as National Counsel. AFFECT is the national coalition that opposes passage of the Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA), the controversial proposed law that would set forth the rules for licensing computer information products.

"We are very pleased that Bob Hirshon is joining the AFFECT team. He brings a wealth of experience that will help us in our state grassroots efforts," stated Miriam Nisbet, President of AFFECT. AFFECT members have been following UCITA for the past decade, and the coalition has been involved in every state where UCITA has been legislatively active.

Hirshon served as President of the ABA in 2001 and 2002, leading the association in its efforts to respond to September 11th. He practices law in Portland Maine where he specializes in commercial litigation and legislative and regulatory advocacy at Drummond, Woodsum and MacMahon. Hirshon is listed in the "Who's Who in America" as well as "Who's Who in American Law."

The ABA was poised to consider a resolution approving UCITA as ready for consideration in state legislatures earlier this winter. ABA consideration of certain proposed uniform laws occurs in accordance with an agreement between the ABA and the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (NCCUSL), the body responsible for developing uniform acts. Despite heavy lobbying by UCITA supporters, none of the key ABA sections and committees that considered UCITA voted to approve the resolution. In the face of the almost certain failure by the full ABA House of Delegates to support UCITA, NCCUSL withdrew its resolution.

"I am delighted to be associated with AFFECT. There is a lot of information, some of it misinformation, about what the ABA actually did with respect to UCITA. As the immediate past president of the ABA, I hope that I will be able to clear the muddy waters surrounding this issue," stated Hirshon.

AFFECT is a broad-based national coalition of consumers, retail and manufacturing businesses, financial institutions, technology professionals and librarians opposed to UCITA.

UCITA is currently being considered by the Oklahoma legislature and other introductions are possible this year. Only two states, Virginia and Maryland, have passed the Act since its approval by NCCUSL in 1999. Three states, North Carolina, West Virginia and Iowa, have enacted "bomb-shelter" laws to protect their residents and businesses from the reaches of UCITA.