Joint ABA/NCCUSL Omnibus Entity Law Study Project

William H. Clark, Jr.
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
Philadelphia, PA

You cannot step twice into the same river, for other waters are ever flowing on to you.

- Heraclitus of Ephesus



- project comes out of accelerating pace of change in entity laws:
 - Uniform Partnership Act
 - most recent revision completed in 1997
 - Uniform Limited Partnership Act
 - most recent revision completed in 2001
 - Uniform Limited Liability Company Act
 - revision to be approved this summer
 - Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act
 - continuing project to harmonize North American law
 - Uniform Statutory Trust Act
 - draft being considered this summer

- Uniform Cooperative Associations Act
 - draft being considered this summer
- Model Business Corporation Act
 - under continuous review and revision
 - major current project is majority voting
- Model Nonprofit Corporation Act
 - complete revision is being prepared
 - exposure draft has been issued
 - new draft following comment period is expected this Fall
- Model Entity Transactions Act
 - approved by NCCUSL, being reviewed by ABA
- Model Registered Agents Act
 - should be final this summer

two major parts of the omnibus entity law study project

preparation of model hub provisions



harmonization of provisions on same subject



model hub provisions



- hub will apply to all the state's entity laws
- subjects included:
 - common definitions
 - mechanics for filings
 - names
 - foreign qualification
 - powers of filing officer
 - META

harmonization of provisions



- purpose is to avoid unintended differences in language
 - corollary: differences in language will indicate a different substantive result is intended
- possible subjects for harmonization:
 - liability shield for interest holders
 - distributions
 - indemnification
 - dissolution
 - fiduciary duties