

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
101 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE, S.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540-1300



OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN  
FOR STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

January 7, 2010

Mr. Lee Ellis  
Office of Governmentwide Policy  
Office of Technology Strategy  
General Services Administration  
Room 2015  
1800 F. St. NW  
Washington, DC 20405

Dear Mr. Ellis:

I am writing on behalf of the Law Librarian of the Library of Congress requesting that GSA's Office of Governmentwide Policy re-examine their decision to deny the Library's registration of the domain "LAW.GOV." We are providing additional information and a more detailed justification to support registration approval and believe that this domain can provide the broad scope of legal, judicial, and legislative information which users would expect from a domain with this name.

The Law Library of the Library of Congress is uniquely positioned to lead collaborative efforts with its agency partners to serve Congress, the Nation and the global community with authoritative and authenticated electronic legal and legislative information through the "LAW.GOV" domain. Created by law in 1832 to serve both Congress and the Supreme Court, the Law Library has evolved not only into the Law Library of *Congress*, but also the *de facto* national law library of the United States serving broadly Congress, the Supreme Court and lower federal courts, Federal Government agencies, and concerned and curious citizens throughout the world.

Drawing on its expertise in the areas of collecting, preserving and managing legal and legislative information for THOMAS.gov and the Global Legal Information Network, the Law Library will collaborate with United States and international governmental bodies to facilitate the aggregation and delivery of federal legal and judicial information through "LAW.GOV," and will work with relevant government bodies to establish standards for the legal data provided through this domain, which will leverage the advantages of the semantic web.

The Library of Congress will build, host, maintain and manage an authoritative and authenticated government owned site from which all citizens are able to conduct federated searches for legal information including laws, bills, committee reports, regulations and court decisions from all levels of government.

Recognizing that citizens would expect such a broad domain to provide access to all aspects of U.S. federal legal and legislative information, we have discussed our proposed domain acquisition with senior management of the Government Printing Office, the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice. Based on these conversations, we anticipate their formal support of our application. We have also contacted key stakeholder organizations in the legal community such as the American Bar Association and the American Association of Law Libraries for their input on "LAW.GOV."

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact Roberta Shaffer, Law Librarian of Congress ([rsha@loc.gov](mailto:rsha@loc.gov)).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura E. Campbell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Laura E. Campbell  
Associate Librarian for Strategic Initiatives and CIO