

## ATTACHMENT 15



**MANSFIELD LAW, LLC**

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June 7, 2023

Merrick Grutchfield, Program Administrator  
Professional Responsibility Program  
c/o Office of Court Administrator  
Vermont Supreme Court  
109 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05609  
[Merrick.grutchfield@vermont.gov](mailto:Merrick.grutchfield@vermont.gov)

Dear Ms. Grutchfield:

Allow me to express my support for the reinstatement of William W. Cobb. I had occasion to work with Bill in his capacity as defense counsel on delinquency/YO cases in 2021 and in his capacity as Guardian ad Litem since then. As the more experienced attorney, he was always generous in answering my questions about the Youthful Offender process.

In his capacity as defense counsel, Bill worked cooperatively with me to further the best interests of our common clients. As GAL, he was prepared, thoughtful, and attentive to his juvenile clients and their parents. He has excellent communication skills.

In my estimation, we are going to run short of highly qualified attorneys in Vermont. In Bennington County alone, 11 attorneys have formally retired in the past two years, with only one or two new attorneys moving to the area. We cannot afford to lose the likes of William Cobb from our midst.

For the above reasons, I hope the Professional Responsibility Board will reinstate Attorney Cobb.

Sincerely,

  
Cristina Mansfield, Esq.

**Laurie S. Levin, Esq.**

**Collaborative Law and Mediation**

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**TO: Vermont Professional Conduct Board**

**FROM: Laurie S. Levin, Esq.**

**RE: William Cobb**

**DATE: June 14, 2023**

It is a pleasure to write a letter supporting William ("Bill") Cobb as an attorney and colleague. Over a dozen years ago, a colleague introduced me to Bill as an attorney who supported the mediation process. Bill asked me to serve as a mediator in order to help divorcing couples reach resolutions.

I well remember my first cases working with Bill and immediately respected his focus on assisting his clients to reach fair and reasonable negotiated out-of-court settlements. Over these past years I worked with Bill on numerous cases in which I served as the mediator. I witnessed first-hand Bill's direct contact with his clients. He was always respectful, patient and counseled his clients from a position of understanding of their cases with a strong problem-solving approach.

Often the mediation involved my role as the mediator with Bill representing his client and another attorney representing the other spouse. Our resolutions rates were well within the ninety-percent range. We often spent all-day working on reaching agreements or multiple sessions, as needed. Bill was always well-prepared and as agreements were reached, Bill was ready to start drafting the documents for careful review and consideration.

At the conclusion of our mediation sessions, Bill typically took on the work of making sure the documents were finalized and ready to be filed with the Court. Our work together was productive with excellent outcomes for divorcing families.

If I had questions about a case, Bill would be the first attorney who I would call for advice and guidance. Bill always would be available to work through tough cases with me. His keen intelligence and perspective on helping families to reach the other side of divorces in the best way possible always helped me in handling difficult situations.

I welcome the opportunity to provide additional information. Thank you.



John F. Alexander, M.Ed.  
PO Box 242  
West Burke, Vermont 05871  
802-673-4206 [jfa@sever.net](mailto:jfa@sever.net)

June 16, 2023

TO: The Professional Responsibility Board.

I am writing on behalf of William W. Cobb and strongly support his petition for reinstatement as an attorney in Vermont.

I have known Bill both personal and professionally for over twenty years. He has performed legal work on my behalf in the areas of real estate, civil litigation, landlord-tenant, and has provided advice and assistance with many other legal matters. I have always trusted him with my legal matters and will continue to do so. I understand that he was suspended from the practice of law for fifteen months and am familiar with the Board's findings and orders. However, I know that Bill has taken the time away from his Vermont practice to address the underlying issues and that he has taken his suspension very seriously. I believe that his efforts away from the practice of law can support the Board's findings that he has been rehabilitated to allow him to resume his practice of law.

Bill was a little league coach for many years in Peacham and coached my two grandsons along with his two sons. He was always very attentive to the kids on his team and provided mentoring to the players both on and off the field. He supported the players and families in many ways, both as a coach and community member.

Related to his business skill and advice, about ten years ago he was willing to step in and assist in managing a state pilot program addressing the unique needs of a traumatic brain injured (TBI) program. The program participants/patients all represent a vulnerable population. Supervision/management was critical. Bill provided valuable "hands on" leadership working closely with the staff and residents and assisting me with program structure.

I have the utmost respect for Bill both as a committed citizen, a competent attorney and a person devoted to family and profession. I state this unequivocally having spent these past many years in several responsible positions, e.g., officer US military, Board member for numerous non-profit boards, a selectperson, consultant for the State of Vermont Department of Education, business owner for forty plus years and governor appointment to the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC),

The many varied experiences have provided me and opportunity to judge one's character. There are no questions, in my mind, that Bill understands the corrective measures required to return to the practice of law and has taken the necessary steps to do so.

I am available should you have questions and or comments.

Very truly yours,

John F. Alexander, M.Ed.

June 7, 2023

Joseph J. Russo, Jr.  
P. O. Box 82  
Waterville, Vermont. 05492  
802.372.1311

Vermont Bar professional conduct Board  
RE: BILL COBB

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter to provide support for the reinstatement of Bill Cobb in the State of Vermont as an attorney. I have worked with Bill on a number of occasions over a span of many years. Bill is always available, returns his call promptly and has assisted in a variety of legal matters from real estate to litigation.

In addition due to my employment position I have sent Bill many clients in need of assistance from an attorney and Bill has always provided them with good counsel.

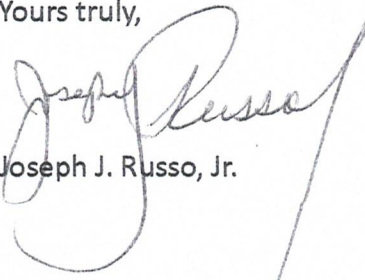
One example which stands out is that a colleague of mine was having rather serious real estate issues and I phoned Bill on a Sunday Morning and he took on the client and resolved the issue, albeit rather a complex issue.

Another time regarding real estate again, a court settlement did not release a lean on a home which was granted as a divorce settlement, so the person who received the home was going to have to sell it to pay the lien. Bill settled that.

Those are just a few examples of the ongoing professionalism of Bill. Please contact me if you have any questions at all. I have provided my mobile number.

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,



Joseph J. Russo, Jr.



June 8, 2023

Phyllis Corcoran-Woods  
3 Hidden Drive  
Alburgh, VT 05440

Vermont Board Professional Conduct Board  
RE: William Cobb, ESQ

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you on behalf of William Cobb, ESQ.

Bill served as my counsel during a real estate partition with a family member. Bill's knowledge of Vermont real estate law, his perseverance in moving the case forward in a timely fashion, and his professional manner throughout the dispute was beyond compare.

Bill was able to explain the fine points of VT real estate law to me in plain laymen terms. By departing his knowledge to me in this manner the whole legal process was easier for me to understand and accept.

Finally, Bill's understanding of the human condition and the toll this process can take on an individual and one's family was tempered with kindness and humor a true asset when one faces difficult choices in legal matters.

I would choose Bill's counsel in any legal matter I might face.

Thank you for your time and consideration in reinstating Bill Cobb with all the rights and privileges to serve the people of the State of Vermont.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phyllis Corcoran-Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Phyllis Corcoran-Woods  
818-438-0203

REFERENCE: SUPPORT OF WILLIAM COBB

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

As a Guardian ad Litem, I write in support of William Cobb. Mr. Cobb and I worked on several cases together. In one particular case, he was the lawyer of three children in custody of the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The youngest child, age 11, had type-1 diabetes and was uncontrollable physically and refused to manage her food intake which caused her sugar balance to sky-rocket. It was decided that the best solution for her was residential treatment at a Center in Oklahoma. Mr. Cobb was incredibly helpful to both the 11-year-old and the family in assisting them in understanding the residential process and helped them accept the difficult decision to send her to a location nearly 2,000 miles away. The family was very upset when he had to give up their case. The current lawyer has yet to meet or talk with this 11-year-old child.

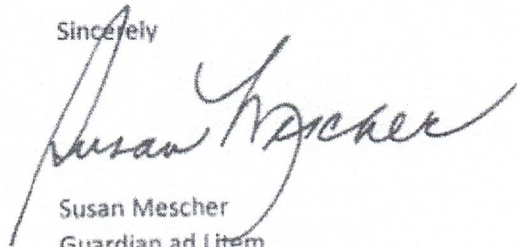
In the more than seven years that I have been a Guardian ad Litem, I have never experienced a lawyer so engaged with a child he was representing. This wasn't an unusual experience as Mr. Cobb was always engaged with the children he was representing as was shared by other Guardian ad Litem in the program.

Hopefully, Mr. Cobb will be returning to represent children in DCF custody. The process is so complicated for children and families going through the gruesome court system, having a lawyer like Mr. Cobb is a great asset for them.

If you have any questions regarding this information or if I can provide more information, please contact me. I can be reached at 212-854-6192 or via email at [sm27@columbia.edu](mailto:sm27@columbia.edu).

I hope my letter makes a difference as we need him back.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Mescher", written over a horizontal line.

Susan Mescher  
Guardian ad Litem  
Caledonia County