



FAMILY DIVISION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

AMENDED CHARGE AND DESIGNATION

August 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Vermont Judiciary has a vision that the people of Vermont will have trust and confidence in the Vermont state courts because the courts are fair, impartial, accessible, responsive, consistent, free of discrimination, independent, and well-managed. The Family Division Oversight Committee is established to promote that vision and to ensure:

- access to justice and respect for all litigants and members of the bar
- the court system is open, affordable, and understandable and offers a level of service that is appropriate to the characteristics of the case
- deployment of resources that is cost-efficient for the taxpayer and cost effective to litigants

CHARGE

The Committee is specially charged to:

1. Receive and review requests for assistance with issues concerning the Family Division. It may create subcommittees to address areas or issues as needed and may invite attorneys to participate in committee discussions based on the attorneys' expertise in the topic under discussion.
2. Enhance efforts to achieve timely disposition and accurate records of the Family Division proceedings. The committee shall make recommendations to the Supreme Court on time disposition goals for the different types of Family cases

and identify meaningful management reports to help judges and managers to meet those goals.

3. Make recommendations regarding statutory revisions or additions, amendments to court rules, development of forms, and implementation of uniform procedures for docketing, calendaring, scheduling, and caseflow management.
4. In coordination with the Judicial Branch Education Committee, recommend training programs for judges and staff to enhance the quality of judicial decisions, implement legislative mandates, and uniform policies throughout the state.
5. Submit annual reports to the Judiciary Advisory Council and the Supreme Court by January 1 describing the Committee's work.

The Office of the Court Administrator shall provide the Committee with necessary administrative assistance.

MEMBERSHIP

The Family Division Oversight Committee shall consist of ~~fifteen~~ sixteen members. The Committee shall consist of the Chief Superior Administrative Judge for Trial Courts, one Supreme Court Justice designated by the Chief Justice, the Court Administrator or his/her designee, four Superior Court Judges, one Family Division Magistrate, one Superior Court Clerk, ~~one~~ two Court Operations Managers, two Family Division Case Managers, and three lawyers with an interest and experience in family matters. At least one member of the Committee shall be a member of the Family Rules Committee. Initial appointments shall be for staggered terms. Thereafter, they shall be appointed for three-year terms. Whenever a member resigns or the office is otherwise vacant, the Supreme Court shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term. The chair shall be the Chief Superior Administrative Judge for Trial Courts or his/her designee.

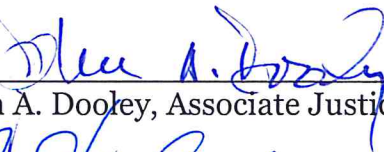
EXPENSES

In the performance of their duties, the non-Judicial Branch members of the Committee shall be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses. The Judicial Branch members shall be reimbursed for the normal state employee expenses. The Commissioner of Finance and Management shall pay from the judicial appropriation all expenses of the Committee when claims are submitted on proper vouchers approved by the Court Administrator or his/her designee.

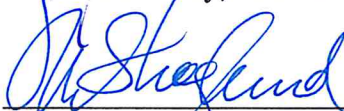
Done in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont this 25th day of August 2016.



Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice



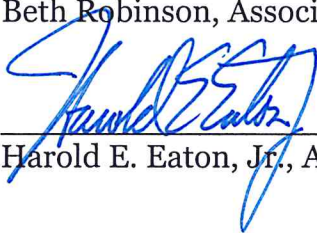
John A. Dooley, Associate Justice



Marilyn S. Skoglund, Associate Justice



Beth Robinson, Associate Justice



Harold E. Eaton, Jr., Associate Justice