



VERMONT COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL OPERATION

Charge and Designation

The General Assembly, by statute, has recognized that the allocation of resources in the judiciary, including judges and staff and operating expenses, is controlled to a great degree by statute and does not always allow flexibility to meet the judiciary's constitutional responsibilities in the most efficient and effective manner.

The General Assembly has also recognized that the new technologies, including video transmission and electronic documents and filing, provide opportunities to increase efficiency while maintaining or improving access to judicial proceedings.

The General Assembly has requested the Supreme Court to appoint and convene a commission on judicial operation to consist of members representing the judicial, legislative, and executive branches of government and persons representing the citizens of Vermont in a number determined by the Court.

A. Charge

The Vermont Commission on Judicial Operation is hereby established for the purpose of developing specific proposals for consideration of the General Assembly and making recommendations from time to time by report to the Senate and House Committees on Judiciary and Appropriations, the House Committee on Corrections and Institutions, and the Senate Committee on Government Operations in the areas identified below. By January 15, 2009, the Commission shall report to those committees with specific proposals regarding subdivision (1) identified below with accompanying draft legislation to implement these proposals, and by January 15, 2010 that shall address the following areas:

- (1) Consolidation of staff, including clerks of courts, paid by the state within the judiciary budget and consolidation of staff functions across courts in individual counties and statewide;
- (2) Regionalization of court administrative functions, both those now performed at the state level and those performed at the county level;

- (3) Use of technology, including video technology, to reduce unnecessary expenditures, including transport of prisoners, while improving access and maintaining the quality of adjudication;
- (4) Flexibility in use of resources to respond to the demands on the judiciary overall and particularly in instances where the amount and nature of demand changes;
- (5) Reallocation of jurisdiction between courts, consistent with effective and efficient operation, and
- (6) Any other idea for the efficient and effective delivery of judicial services.

The office of the Court Administrator shall provide the Commission with necessary staff and administrative support and will seek grant funding to provide technical assistance to support the work of the Commission.

B. Designation

The Supreme Court hereby appoints to the Vermont Commission on Judicial Operation the following persons:

Hon. Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice, to serve as Chair of the Commission

Hon. Denise R. Johnson, Associate Justice

Hon. M. Kathleen Manley, Superior Court Judge

Hon. Dennis Pearson, Superior Court Judge

Eileen Blackwood, Esq.

Stephen Dale, Commissioner, Department of Children and Families

Stephen A. Dardeck, Esq.

Joan F. Gamble

Linda McIntire, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Administration

Deborah L. Markowitz, Esq., Secretary of State

Richard Marron

Stephan Morse

Charles Smith

Donna Sweaney, Vermont House of Representatives

Jeannette K. White, Vermont Senate

C. 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 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 designee.

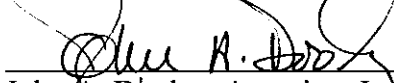
D. Duration of Charge & Designation

This Charge and Designation shall be effective on this date through January 15, 2010, unless further extended by the Court.

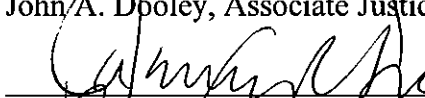
Done in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont this 20th day of November, 2008



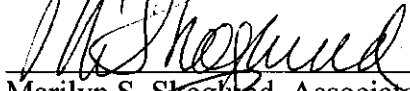
Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice



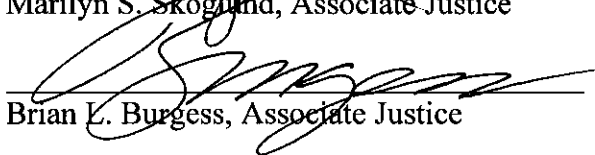
John A. Doley, Associate Justice



Denise R. Johnson, Associate Justice



Marilyn S. Skoglund, Associate Justice



Brian L. Burgess, Associate Justice