

## **PROBATE DIVISION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

### **CHARGE AND DESIGNATION**

**JULY 2014**

**[This new Charge and Designation replaces in its entirety the former Charge & Designation]**

#### **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 Probate 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 Probate 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 Probate Division proceedings. The committee shall make recommendations to the Supreme Court on time disposition goals for the different types of Probate 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.

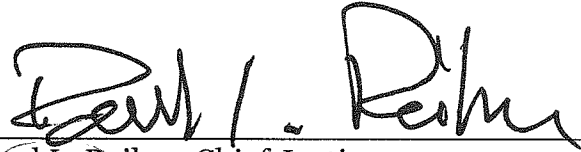
#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The Probate Division Oversight Committee shall consist of thirteen members. The Committee shall consist of the Chief Administrative Judge for Trial Courts, one Supreme Court Justice designated by the Chief Justice, the Court Administrator or his/her designee, three Probate Judges, one Superior Court Judge, one Superior Court Clerk, one Court Operations Manager, two Probate Registers, and two lawyers from private practice with an interest and experience in probate matters. At least one member of the Committee shall be a member of the Probate 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 Administrative Judge for Trial Courts or his/her designee.

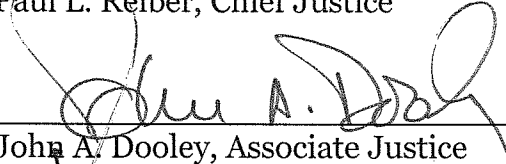
#### **EXPENSES**

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.

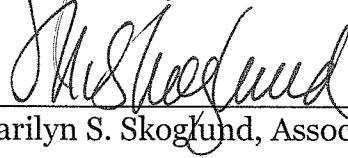
Done in Chambers at Montpelier, Vermont this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July 2014.



Paul L. Reiber, Chief Justice



John A. Dooley, Associate Justice



Marilyn S. Skoglund, Associate Justice



Beth Robinson, Associate Justice



Geoffrey W. Crawford, Associate Justice