

PROBATE COURT  
DISTRICT OF ADDISON

Eleanor W. Smith, Probate Judge



(802) 388-2612

7 Mahady Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753

February 27, 2014

William J. Lippert, Chair  
House Committee of Judiciary  
Vermont State House  
Montpelier, Vermont 05633

**Re: Support for Proposed Amendments to 4 V.S.A. §22  
Designation and Special Assignment of Judicial Officers  
and Retired Judicial Officers**

Dear Mr. Lippert:

I am writing you in my capacity as President of the Probate Judges Association. The Association is strongly supportive of the proposed amendments to 4 V.S.A. §22. The amendments would enable the Chief Justice to appoint a probate judge to a special assignment with the Supreme Court. It also provides the Administrative Judge with the authority to appoint a probate judge to a special assignment in the Superior Court.

The amendments would enable the Judiciary to utilize the skills, expertise, and experience of the probate judges in appointing and assigning them to hear and dispose of cases in other divisions as well as cases in the Supreme Court. The probate judges represent a significant resource that could be effectively used to increase access to justice.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I would be happy to appear before the Committee and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ELEANOR SMITH".

Eleanor "Misse" Smith  
Probate Judge, Addison Unit