

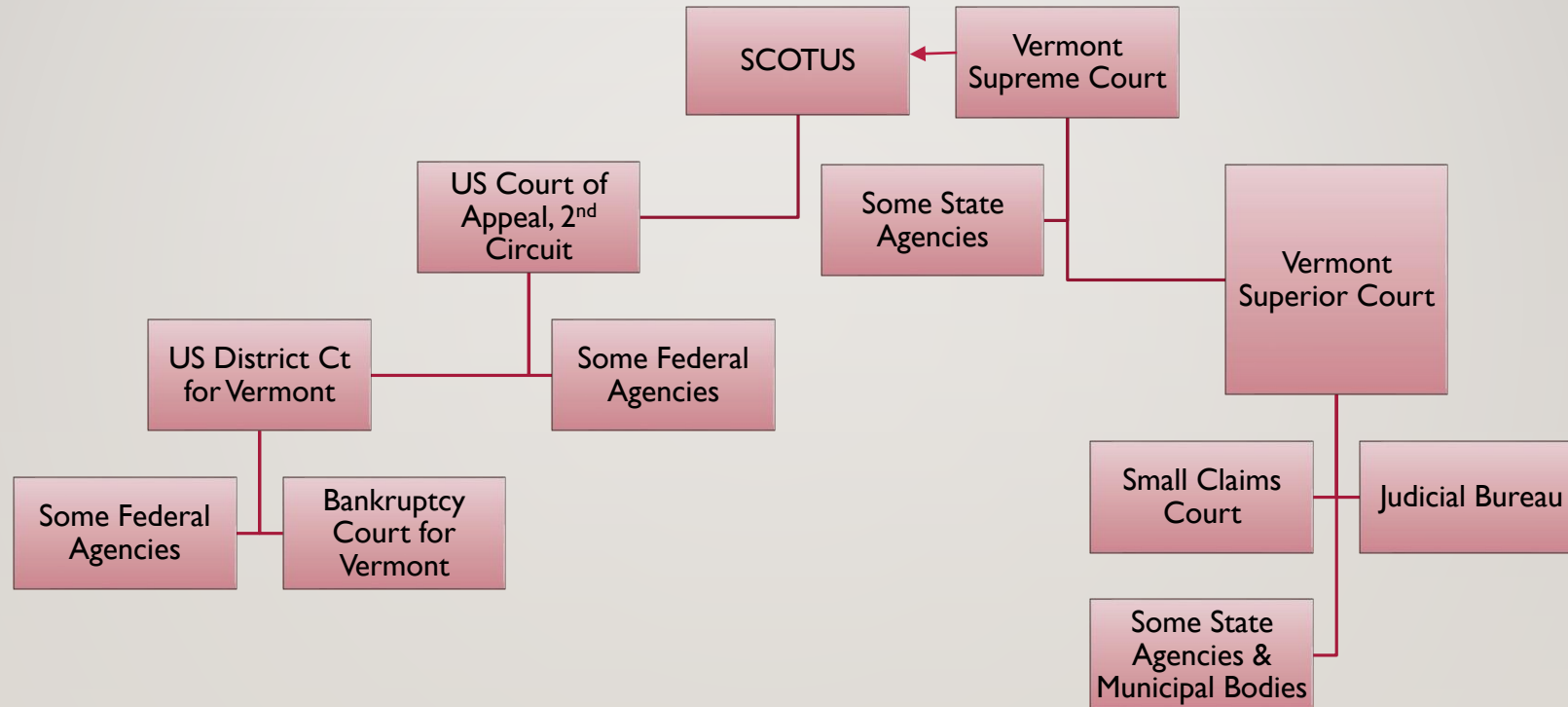
VERMONT JUDICIARY BASICS

Presentation to House Judiciary Committee

Hon. Beth Robinson, Associate Justice

January 10, 2017

VERMONT STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS



VERMONT SUPERIOR COURT

EXAMPLES OF CASES IN VARIOUS DIVISIONS

Civil Division

- Evictions and Landlord/Tenant
- Mortgage Foreclosures
- Debt Collection
- Contract Disputes
- Stalking Orders
- Personal Injury Cases

Family Division

- Divorce (including custody and child support)
- Parentage/Paternity
- Abuse Protection
- Abuse & Neglect
- Juvenile Delinquency

Probate Division

- Administering Estates of People Who Die With or Without a Will
- Guardianship of Minors
- Guardianship of Adults (voluntary and involuntary)
- Name Changes
- Gender Marker Changes

Criminal Division

- Driving Under the Influence
- Disorderly Conduct
- Drug Charges
- Felony and Misdemeanor Charges

Environmental Division

- Appeals from Municipal Zoning Decisions
- Appeals from Act 250 Rulings by District Environmental Commissions
- Enforcement of Certain Municipal Ordinances and Environmental Regulations

VERMONT SMALL CLAIMS COURT

- Claims for money (damages) up to \$5,000
- Only includes claims for money.
- Intended to be more “user-friendly”
- Appeals to the Superior Court, civil division

VERMONT JUDICIAL BUREAU

- Traffic violations (tickets)
- Municipal ordinance violations
- Fish and wildlife violations
- Lead hazard abatement violations
- Non-criminal marijuana violations
- Burning and waste disposal violations

EXAMPLES OF STATE AGENCY MATTERS DECIDED FIRST IN EXECUTIVE BRANCH BEFORE COURT APPEAL

- Department of Labor: unemployment, workers' compensation, wage and hour disputes
- Department of Children and Families: benefits like 3SquaresVT, fuel assistance, Reach Up
- Department of Vermont Health Access: Medicaid
- Public Service Board: renewable energy siting
- Department of Taxes – State Appraiser (certain property valuation appeals)

EXAMPLES OF MATTERS DECIDED FIRST BY MUNICIPAL BODIES BEFORE COURT APPEAL

- Board of Civil Authority: property appraisal for tax purposes
- Development Review Board: zoning determinations
- District Environmental Commission: Act 250 permits

SELF-REPRESENTATION IN SELECTED DOCKETS

Type of Case	Number of SRLs	% of SRLs
Parentage	615	81%
Divorce	1,045	54%
Foreclosure – Defendants	2,208	79%
Landlord-Tenant - Defendants	620	88%
Collections – Defendants	494	84%
Intestate Estates - Administrators		59%
Minor Guardianships – Custodial Guardians		90%