

PHILIP B. SCOTT  
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 10, 2021

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chair  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

I am writing to support President Biden's nomination of Vermont Supreme Court Associate Justice Beth Robinson to serve as a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Justice Robinson has strong education credentials, served as a Clerk in the U.S. Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit and had an 18-year legal practice with one of Vermont's leading law firms. She served for one year as Counsel to Governor Peter Shumlin who went on to appoint her to the Vermont Supreme Court where she has served for the past 10 years. By all measures, Justice Robinson is qualified to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Justice Robinson demonstrated her commitment to equal rights and justice, as well as her connection to community and her passion for service as co-counsel in Vermont's ground-breaking *Baker v. State of Vermont* lawsuit, in which the Vermont Supreme Court ruled that the state's prohibition on same-sex marriage denied equal rights guaranteed by the Vermont Constitution. Following her victory in court she went on to advocate for Vermont's enactment of the first civil union law in America in 2009.

In 2011, when nominated to the Vermont Supreme Court, she was unanimously confirmed in a bipartisan show of support by the Vermont Senate – because she had become widely respected for her character and integrity. In the courtroom she is known for her humanity and compassion and in her writing she is principled and insightful.

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Page Two

Fortunately, Vermont's Supreme Court is a body known for its commitment to work toward consensus. It is my understanding that Justice Robinson is well-liked and well-respected by her colleagues for her work ethic, her intellect and her kindness. However, their ability to work well as a team is not only true of their deliberative process as jurists. They also work together as a body to promote the vision of the Judicial Branch for a fair, well-managed, and impartial court system, with each of the Justices assuming roles on Operational and Advisory Committees to accomplish this work. In addition to her duties as a jurist, Justice Robinson serves on the Family Division Oversight Committee which is one of the Court's eight operational committees. She also serves on the Court's Advisory Committee on Rules for Family Proceedings, the Advisory Committee on Rules of Public Access to Court Records and the Special Advisory Committee on Rules for Electronic Filing. These Committee assignments demonstrate her willingness to take on the difficult work needed to ensure meaningful access to justice for Vermont's most vulnerable as well as transparency into the state's judicial system.

I endorse Vermont Supreme Court Associate Justice Beth Robinson's nomination to serve as a Judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and strongly encourage her confirmation. Her competence, commitment, character and chemistry are the qualities important to me for all who serve on the state or federal bench.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip B. Scott', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott  
Governor

PBS/kp