



# Vermont Bar Association

• *Serving the Public and the Profession*

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September 3, 2021

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

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
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

Re: Confirmation of the Honorable Beth Robinson to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

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

On behalf of the Vermont Bar Association, I write today to commend to you the confirmation of the Honorable Beth Robinson to a seat on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Since its founding in 1878, the Vermont Bar Association has worked to serve the public; our motto today is “Serving the Public and the Profession.” We are proud to call Justice Robinson a member of the VBA. Her work and career have clearly exemplified the spirit of the organization for the benefit of Vermonters.

Although Justice Robinson is not originally from Vermont, she quickly adopted our “brave little state”<sup>1</sup> as home. After graduating from Dartmouth College and the University of Chicago Law School, Justice Robinson dedicated her career to serving others. In private practice she focused on representing injured workers in workers’ compensation cases, individuals in personal injury cases, employees suffering workplace discrimination issues, and same-sex partners in connection with family and civil rights matters. In the spirit of service, she left private practice to serve as Counsel to the

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<sup>1</sup> President Calvin Coolidge, “Vermont is a State I Love.” Speech delivered September 19, 1928. Text available at <https://coolidgefoundation.org/resources/vermont-is-a-state-i-love/>, last accessed September 2, 2021.

Governor. And for the last ten years, she has served as an Associate Justice on the Vermont Supreme Court. In all these roles, she has used her legal talents in service of others.

Just as important as Justice Robinson's brilliant legal skills and her vast legal knowledge, is her genuine compassion for those most in need of access to justice, and her dedication for facilitating that access.

Justice Robinson's dedicated service to the public and the profession is evident in her long list of public presentations, seminars, and conferences to which she has contributed both before and after her appointment to the Vermont Supreme Court. She currently serves as the Chair of the Access to Justice Coalition, Chair of the Self-Represented Litigant Services Committee, and as the Supreme Court liaison to the Family Division Oversight Committee, the Family Rules Committee, and the Evidence Rules Committee.

Vermont's Access to Justice Coalition is a joint venture between the Vermont Supreme Court, Vermont Bar Association, Vermont Bar Foundation, and numerous primary founders and funders of low-income legal services in Vermont, including Vermont Legal Aid, Legal Services Vermont, and the South Royalton Legal Clinic at Vermont Law School. In her role as Chair of this Coalition, Justice Robinson stated that access to justice is one of the greatest challenges facing the court system now and going forward. "We need to ensure that Vermonters have access to the justice system and that access is meaningful."<sup>2</sup>


The Vermont Poverty Law Fellow Program was established during Justice Robinson's service on the Access to Justice Coalition. The Poverty Law Fellow program is funded by members of the legal community to bring talented, young lawyers to Vermont to advance important issues affecting Vermonters. Fellows have focused on foreclosure relief, Tropical Storm Irene recovery, equal access to school services, veterans' support and services, and the opioid crisis and mental health services for those in the court system. Justice Robinson has been an unceasing champion for the Coalition, the Poverty Law Fellow Program, and for the people they serve.

In addition to Justice Robinson's unrivaled legal acumen and genuine compassion for those most in need of access to justice, she is a thoughtful, respectful, and unfailingly courteous person. It is an absolute pleasure to serve with her. While we will miss her work and wisdom on the Vermont Supreme Court, we are sure that work and wisdom will be welcomed at the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

In sum, Justice Robinson is, in our opinion, the ideal candidate for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She is the perfect candidate to replace long-serving Judge Peter Hall, a Vermonter whose legacy is one of incredible integrity, intellect, work ethic, and compassion for the less fortunate.

Please consider this letter as our proud and enthusiastic support for Justice Beth Robinson's confirmation.

Sincerely yours,



Elizabeth A. Kruska  
President, Vermont Bar Association

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<sup>2</sup> "Access to Justice Coalition Releases Low Income Legal Services Economic Impact Study." VT Digger. November 12, 2019, 11:28 a.m.