
Name	Justin Brown
Email	jbrown@sheeheyvt.com
Judicial Nominating Board Seat	At-Large

Brief Biographical Information



I was born and raised in Rutland and attended Rutland Public Schools. I graduated from Tufts University with a B.A., followed by my J.D. and Master of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School. My legal career includes clerking for judges on the Connecticut Appellate Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. I then spent five years as an associate attorney at the Boston office of a global law firm, where I represented clients in complex business disputes and conducted investigations for Fortune 500 pharmaceutical companies regarding the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and compliance, interviewing hundreds of witnesses in the process.

In 2016, I returned to Vermont and joined the Burlington law firm Sheehey Furlong & Behm P.C., where I am now a partner practicing complex civil litigation across the state. I also serve on the firm's hiring committee.

While my career is rooted in litigation, public service is my true calling. I currently serve on the Board of Managers for the Vermont Bar Association and chair the Young Lawyers Division. Additionally, I am involved with various non-profit boards and I am a member of the Central Vermont American Inns of Court. I am a proud graduate of the Vermont Leadership Institute and Leadership Champlain. Furthermore, I serve as a Captain and Judge Advocate General in the Vermont Air National Guard, 158th Fighter Wing. The goal of my public service is to make our communities and state the best possible place to live, work, and raise a family.

After living in Burlington and Winooski for seven years, my wife, son, and I recently moved to Waterbury Center to be closer to the mountains.

Statement of Interest

After discussing the vital work of the Judicial Nominating Board with colleagues in the legal community, I am excited and humbled by the opportunity to serve. As a member of the JNB, I will work tirelessly to identify competent and qualified candidates for the Governor's consideration. These candidates must embody attributes essential for success as judges or justices, including integrity, legal knowledge and ability, impartiality, judicial temperament, and professionalism.

My experiences in litigation and clerking for judges have provided me with firsthand insight into these attributes in action. I am committed to ensuring that lawyers understand the JNB process and that their questions and concerns are addressed. I will focus on maximizing the pool of qualified attorneys seeking these positions. It is critical that the Governor has access to the most qualified candidates when filling judicial vacancies, as the decisions made by judges profoundly impact our clients, communities, and state.

In summary, I am deeply rooted in Vermont-born in Rutland County, practicing law at a firm in Chittenden County, and residing in Washington County. I view serving on the JNB as a public duty, and it would be an honor to contribute as the at-large member.

Name	Mimi Brill
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Judicial Nominating Board Seat	Southern

Brief Biographical Information



I am the Supervising Attorney at the Windham County Public Defender's Office for the past 15 years having joined the office 20 years ago as a staff attorney. Prior to working in Vermont, I was a public defender in Massachusetts for 5 years and in NYC for 12 years. I am very familiar with how a courtroom and docket should be run. I am currently serving on the Supreme Court Criminal Rules Committee (for the past 8 years) and the Evidence Rules Committee (for the past 7 years). I am also currently serving on the Professional Responsibility Board as a panel member.

Statement of Interest

I would be honored to serve on the Judicial Nominating Committee either as the Southern Board Seat or the At-Large Seat. I am extremely well versed in the day to day running of both Criminal and Juvenile Court and my experience would make me an asset to the Board. I do think the southern part of the state, particularly Windham County, is historically less represented in these kind of State-wide committees and our courts run differently than Chittenden or Rutland. I want to help ensure the quality of our judiciary throughout the state.

Name	Jessica Burke
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Judicial Nominating Board Seat	Northern

Brief Biographical Information



I grew up in Fairlee, Vermont and attended Vermont public schools. I developed lifelong passions for hiking, running, skiing, Golden Retrievers, and the pursuit of justice. I graduated from Boston College with a degree in Political Science and then from Washington & Lee School of Law.

After graduation, I became a public defender in the Virginia Beach region. This job fundamentally changed me. I could not unsee the consequences of systemic racism and social inequity laid bare before me. I devoted my career to this fight. I continue this fight every day.

In 2011, I returned to Vermont. I opened Burke Law in a shared basement office in Burlington. I applied for and received a small public defense contract in Addison county. That contract made clear to me that inequity has no geographic bounds. All of the ails of justice involved individuals in Virginia exist for justice involved Vermonters, too. Lack of stable housing, access to education, jobs, poverty, racism, family support, and treatment programs conspire with the Opioid epidemic to derail our most vulnerable neighbors.

I took what I saw, and I used the court platform to tell the stories of Vermonters who found themselves ensnared in the criminal justice system. Their stories often culminated with serious crimes. Yet, the stories of how they got there were often logical given the choices and lack of other opportunities available to them.

My practice has grown and now includes multiple attorneys with offices in Burlington and White River Junction. We practice private and public state and federal criminal defense. As a private criminal defense attorney and as a Serious Felony Contractor for the Vermont Defender General, I have tried some of Vermont's most grave offenses to verdict.

One of my favorite parts of my job is mentoring young attorneys. The fight for a better tomorrow will last past this lifetime. To see new approaches and ideas bubble to the surface through a young attorney gives me hope that we can solve some of the systemic issues plaguing our most vulnerable Vermonters.

I love my work. I cherish the Vermont legal community. I am humbled and thankful to again be considered for the Judicial Nominating Board.

Statement of Interest

I am the current Vice Chair of the Judicial Nominating Board. If re-elected to the Board, I will bring intuitional knowledge, continuity, and dedication to the role.

The Judicial Nominating Board serves a vitally important gatekeeping function. I will continue to support applications of well-qualified candidates for the positions of Supreme Court Justice, Superior Court Judge, magistrate, and Chair of the Public Utilities Commission. Well qualified candidates are those who exhibit courtroom experience, integrity, legal knowledge, appropriate judicial temperament, impartiality, effective communication skills, a diligent work ethic, and exemplary management skills.

My broad range of experience in Vermont Courts includes litigating criminal cases in all 14 Vermont counties, successful appellate practice before the Vermont Supreme Court, service as Special Disciplinary Counsel for the Professional Responsibility Board, and as a present member of the Criminal Rules Committee.

Growing up in Fairlee and then residing in Winooski for the last thirteen years, I am familiar with the dynamics of Vermont. We are at once rural and urban, farms and production, and trees and streetlights. The task of Judicial Nominating Board is to look beyond where a candidate comes from to assess their capacity to effectively serve in the diverse fabric of the Vermont judicial system. I believe I have done that well during the last two years. I hope to be able to continue to serve the bar on the Board.

Name	Sarah Vangel
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Judicial Nominating Board Seat	Southern

Brief Biographical Information



I am currently a partner at Costello, Valente, & Gentry Law Office, P.C., based in Brattleboro. In my six years with this firm I have, and will continue to, practice law in all four divisions of the Vermont Superior Court. My current work builds on 9 years of prior experience in the Brattleboro area in criminal, civil, probate and transactional law. I enjoy working in multiple areas of the law and appearing before a variety of judges. After graduating from law school in 2009, I began my career as a law clerk for the judges in the Bennington Unit of the Vermont Superior Court. I also served as member of the Vermont State Ethics Commission for six years. The scope of my legal practice and experience is well suited to the work of the Judicial Nominating Board, which interviews and vets all candidates for all magistrate, superior court judge, supreme court justice and chair of the Public Utilities Commission in the State of Vermont.

Statement of Interest

My first term on the Judicial Nominating Board (JNB) has been the most meaningful public service work of my career. As a member of the Vermont Bar, as well as a citizen of our State, I care deeply about the quality and integrity of our Judiciary. You are all aware of the challenges, particularly since COVID, where backlog, lack of staff and other resources, and changes in technology have made it difficult for our courts to run efficiently. In the midst of this, there have been retirements as well as the creation of new judicial positions that have left a lot of vacancies on the bench. I take the role that the JNB plays in shaping the future of the Vermont Judiciary very seriously. We are mandated to closely critique each candidate, using a set of statutory criteria, to determine if they are well-qualified such that their name is passed along to the Governor for possible appointment. I work hard to focus myself and the other board members on those criteria in our consideration of each candidate. I have also recently volunteered to be on a subcommittee to review the rules of the Board, and I look forward to that work. I would be proud and honored if you would re-elect me.
