

VBA Board of Managers – Nominee Information

Jessica Bullock



Biographical Information: I am honored to have been nominated for a position on the Vermont Bar Association Board of Managers, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Board. As a Vermonter, a former teacher, and an attorney, I hope to contribute my collection of experiences and my commitment to our local communities to the Board. By way of background, I grew up in Shrewsbury, Vermont, and I attended the University of Vermont. I later earned my M.S. Ed. at Johns Hopkins University while teaching language arts and social studies to third-grade students in Baltimore, Maryland through the Teach For America program.

When I decided to pursue a legal career, I returned to my home state and received my J.D. at Vermont Law School. During my time at VLS, my studies focused on criminal law and policy, and I obtained a Certificate in Criminal Law. I became involved in the Vermont legal community through a variety of activities, including participating in VBA events and the Joan Loring Wing Inns of Court Fellowship. After graduating from VLS, I have held two clerkships and practiced as a litigation associate at Dinse P.C. During my time at Dinse, I practiced general civil litigation encompassing a variety of areas, including environmental law, medical and professional malpractice, and insurance defense, among others. As an attorney who has recently joined the Vermont Bar, spent time serving the state and federal judiciary, and is committed to practicing in this state, I look forward to sharing my experiences and perspective with the Board.

In addition to my legal work, I remain engaged in the Vermont community as the founding Director of SPEAK Inc., a non-profit organization that promotes debate, public speaking, education, and advocacy, particularly for individuals whose voices have been traditionally underrepresented. SPEAK leads programs for incarcerated individuals, and individuals transitioning back into their communities following incarceration, in Vermont. I currently live in Burlington with my husband and our Belgian Shepherd, Conan. Thank you for your consideration.

Statement of Interest: It is an honor and a privilege to practice law in the state of Vermont, and I am grateful to have been nominated to serve on the VBA Board. The VBA is committed to promoting inclusivity within our legal community and to improving access to the judicial system for Vermonters. I aim to use my time on the Board to further this mission and support the VBA's educational and access-to-justice initiatives.

Over the past several years, I have had the great pleasure of helping with VBA educational initiatives to increase young Vermonters' awareness about the law. For example, I assisted the VBA in hosting its First Annual Statewide High School Mock Trial Program and recently helped the Young Lawyers Division to revise its

“On Your Own” booklet, which informs Vermonters about their rights and state law. I look forward to contributing to future educational programs as a member of the Board. I also hope to become involved with the VBA’s Workforce Committee, which is dedicated to increasing access to justice for rural Vermonters, and the VBA’s Continuing Learning Education programs. I am particularly interested in contributing to CLE programs focused on wellness and providing instruction to early-career attorneys. Finally, I am committed to honoring diversity in the Vermont legal community, and I am excited to help the VBA continue and expand its Implicit Bias Series.

The VBA has been invaluable in helping me to launch my career as an aspiring attorney in Vermont. I am grateful that I have been able to build my legal career in my home state, and I will use my time on the VBA Board to welcome and encourage others who are starting their legal practice here. I am excited for this opportunity, and I look forward to engaging with, learning from, and supporting the Vermont Bar and its membership. Thank you for your consideration.

Richard Cassidy



Biographical Information: Richard T. Cassidy is a founder of Rich Cassidy Law. Rich is a Vermont personal injury and employment lawyer who focuses on representing individuals. He also works as a mediator and arbitrator. He has practiced law in Vermont for more than 40 years. He has successfully tried many cases to verdict and argued precedent-setting appeals.

Rich is a 1975 graduate of the University of Vermont and a 1978 graduate of Albany Law School. He served as Law Clerk to the Honorable Robert W. Larrow of the Vermont Supreme Court in 1978-79, and as Chief Law Clerk to Chief Justice Albert W. Barney, Jr. in 1979-80 before entering private practice.

He has a long history of service to the bar and as a volunteer public servant. He is a member of the American Bar Association and the Vermont Bar Association. He represented the VBA in the ABA House of Delegates for 16 years and served as a member of the ABA Board of Governors. He was a member, and chair, of the ABA’s Delivery of Legal Services Committee.

He is a former member of the Vermont Human Rights Commission, a longtime Member, and for nine years Chair, of the Vermont Board of Bar Examiners, and for 12 years was an elected Member of the South Burlington School Board. He chaired the School Board for 6 years. He also chaired the Vermont Solid Waste and Air Quality for 12 years.

Rich has been a Vermont member of the Uniform Law Commission since his appointment by Governor Howard Dean in 1994 and served as the 2015-2017 President of the Commission. He served on the drafting committees on the Model Punitive Damages Act, the Revised Uniform Arbitration Act, and the Model

Apportionment of Tort Responsibility Act. He chaired the drafting committee on the Collateral Consequences of Conviction Act. He presently chairs the Drafting Committee on Covenants Not to Compete, and the Monitoring Committee on Privacy Law.

He is an elected member of the American Law Institute and member of the National Employment Lawyers' Association, the Vermont Employment Lawyers' Association, the Vermont Trial Lawyers' Association, and the Vermont Association for Justice.

Rich received the VBA President's Award in 2016, the America Bar Association Grassroots Award for defense of the attorney-client privilege in 2009, and the Jonathon B. Chase Award, ACLU of Vermont, Inc. in 1990. He maintains a blog for lawyers, OnLawyering.com

Statement of Interest: I love practicing law. It is extremely rewarding to me. And I believe that lawyers and judges are critically important to our society and our State. We have a crucial role in the ordering of personal and business relationships and in operating a peaceful dispute resolution system that strives to be fair and honest. Without our work, social cooperation would not be possible.

The Vermont Bar Association supports each of us as professionals. I've been fortunate to have been deeply engaged in a broad spectrum of professional activity. I believe it has given me a perspective that would be helpful as a member of the VBA Board of Managers. I ask for your vote.

Jordana Levine



Biographical Information: I am a shareholder at Marsicovetere & Levine Law Group, P.C. , and have been practicing law for the past fifteen years. The focus of my practice is criminal defense in state and federal court. I am a member of Criminal Justice Act (CJA) Panel, where I have the privilege and opportunity to be assigned by the U.S. District Court to represent indigent individuals charged with crimes in federal court. In 2008, I was instrumental in the development and implementation of the Sparrow Project. The Sparrow Project was initially granted funded by H. 859 (The Justice Reinvestment Pilot Screening Project) and continued to provide community based treatment plans and support to individuals while their criminal charges are pending in the Criminal Division of Windsor Superior Court through July 2017. I also helped develop and start Vermont's first and only DUI Treatment Court, and represent participants in the treatment team and systems meetings. I have been teaching Trial Practice at Vermont Law School since September 2016. I also served on the Board of Directors for COVER Home Repair for six years. COVER is an incredible organization committed to community and fostering hope.

Statement of Interest: I would like an opportunity to serve the members of the Vermont bar by serving on the Board of Managers.

I have really enjoyed working with the Ad Hoc eFiling Fees Study Committee, the Odyssey Court Users Study Group, and serving on the Commission on Sentencing Disparities and Criminal Code Reclassification. Serving on these different committees has re-enforced the importance of actively participating in the Vermont Bar Association, and working on projects that will assist all attorneys in their practices.

I also created materials and a training for the Office of the Defender General to assist with the transition to using the Odyssey Public Portal, and the Odyssey FileandServe systems. I am hopeful these materials and the training helped the attorneys who participated with the transition to Odyssey.

Diversity in practice area, gender, and geographical location are important factors to consider when selecting board members. While my office has a public defense contract, our practice includes civil, family, state and federal criminal defense privately and through the Criminal Justice Act Panel. Our office is located in central Vermont, and serves a diverse a demographic.

I believe my trial experience, my experience as both a public defender and as a private criminal and family law attorney, and my experience serving on committees for the VBA will be valuable contributions if I am elected to serve on the Board of Managers.