

Now that we're in week three of this legislative session, it's time for a quick update on what the VBA is doing. Our most important committees are the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. Both have new members, either serving their first term in each committee or who are newly elected. So, both committees have been allocating considerable time to bringing those new members up to speed on the committees' jurisdiction and on the history of laws and bills that were considered last session. So, in short, output has been minimal and somewhat slow. That, of course, will change soon.

Here is a list on members of each Judiciary Committee:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

- Rep. [Martin LaLonde](#), Chair
- Rep. [Thomas Burditt](#), Vice Chair
- Rep. [Kevin "Coach" Christie](#), Ranking Member
- Rep. [Angela Arsenault](#)
- Rep. [Ela Chapin](#)
- Rep. [Karen Dolan](#)
- Rep. [Kate Donnally](#)
- Rep. [Kenneth Goslant](#), Clerk
- Rep. [William Notte](#)
- Rep. [Thomas Oliver](#)
- Rep. [Barbara Rachelson](#)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

- Sen. [Dick Sears Jr.](#), Chair
- Sen. [Nader Hashim](#), Vice Chair
- Sen. [Philip Baruth](#)
- Sen. [Tanya Vyhovsky](#), Clerk
- Sen. [Robert Norris](#)

If you know any of them and have a relationship with them please let me know. It's always best when a constituent, as opposed to a lobbyist reaches out. We are awaiting the introduction of two bills that have been vetted by members of the VBA's Probate & Trust Section, along with members of the Trust Committee of the Vermont Bankers Association. I expect both will be committee to the House Judiciary Committee for its review.

The VBA also follows the judiciary's budget request closely and does what it can to help it get the funding it needs. I know that they are seeking money in the budget adjustment bill that is working its way through the House Appropriations Committee.

The court is hoping to improve its technology in courthouses by upgrading the wiring which is needed to handle the increased traffic due to Odyssey filings as well as Teams or Webex meetings. Here are links to its presentation:

[Therese Corsones - Memo to House Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs 1-19-2023.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#)

[PowerPoint Presentation \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Also, you should know that there are efforts in both the House and Senate to increase the jurisdiction of the Small Claims Court to \$10,000. It's been \$5000 maybe for about 15 years.

That's it for a quick update. I'll try to post weekly. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out. Thanks for reading.

Bob Paolini