

GOV. SHUMLIN APPOINTS RUTLAND ATTORNEY TO SUPERIOR COURT

30 July 2015

MONTPELIER - July 30, 2015 - Gov. Peter Shumlin announced today that he will appoint attorney John Valente, a shareholder and director at the Rutland law firm of Ryan, Smith, and Carbine, Ltd., to the Vermont trial bench. Valente fills the seat left open by the retirement of Judge David Suntag.

John Valente's practice currently centers around workers' compensation, employment, and business disputes. He also has a mediation practice and has previously handled property, contract, and civil claims. He is the current Chair of the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, and a member of the Vermont Capital Debt Affordability Advisory Committee. He also serves on the Rutland Economic Development Corporation board, and is a prior chair of the boards of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and the Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce.

"I am proud to appoint to the Vermont bench someone of John's compassion, fairness, and a long-standing family commitment to our legal system. John's warmth, accessibility, and innate sense of fairness will serve Vermonters and the Vermont judiciary well," Gov. Shumlin said.

John Valente was born in Rutland and is the son of former Vermont trial judge Silvio Valente, also a native of Rutland, who served as a Vermont judge for 24 years.

"I am greatly honored that Governor Shumlin has chosen me to serve on the Superior Court," said Valente. "Our system of justice affects people's lives on a daily basis and with that comes great responsibility: to be neutral, to be committed to the rule of law and to the administration of justice. I am humbled by this opportunity to serve my fellow Vermonters, as my father did for over two decades."

John is a graduate of Boston College and Suffolk University School of Law. He and his wife Paula live in Rutland City.