

Please share these comments with the members of the Committee:

As someone who spends a significant amount of time on family cases, I am strongly opposed to the proposal that all child support appeals go to the Supreme Court. For Pro Se litigants this will be an impossible reach to manage and will discourage virtually everyone from appealing.

For attorneys not familiar with the appeal process the the VSC, it will be a challenge and quite costly in terms of time and effort. This, too, will discourage appeals, as most attorneys treat appeals as a separate claim from the core family case and require a new agreement and new retainer to take it on. It will also burden the VSC with appeals that will unnecessarily burden our already overworked justices. The present system works and offers to litigants the distinct advantage of going in front of judges who generally know the underlying cases and who can respond efficiently; why are we trying to fix something that is not broken?

On the service issue, I believe that this change will increase enormously the work of court staff, who are, as we know, already stretched by the current requirements. Pro Se litigants will not successfully manage the numerous mailing steps required by the proposal, and mistakes will lead to more hearings and more, not less, confusion as to whether a party has been correctly noticed.

Please keep the present rules intact; they may have flaws but this proposal will not fix them.

Thank you for your attention to this email.

James M. Rodgers