

VERMONT ENVIRONMENTAL COURT

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25 April 2011

Chief Justice Paul L. Reiber  
Vermont Supreme Court  
109 State St.  
Montpelier, VT 05609-0701

Dear Chief Justice Reiber:

I am writing to let you and the other justices know as far in advance as possible that I plan to retire from the position of Environmental Judge effective September 1, 2011. It has been an honor and a privilege not only to serve the people of Vermont for the past twenty years as a judge in the Vermont Environmental Court (now the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court), but also to have had the remarkable opportunity to help create the Court and to help make it the respected institution it is today. I will do my very best to continue to work with the Court after September 1, 2011 during the transitional period until a new Environmental Judge can be appointed, and after that time if I can be of use to the Court as a retired judge.

As you know, I have been involved over the past seven years or so in making presentations about the Vermont Environmental Court and participating in panel discussions at international conferences on environmental governance, environmental enforcement, and the rule of law. Of course, my primary responsibility has been to my work at and for the Court, leaving only a very limited amount of time, mostly my vacation time, available for these conferences. Increasingly, other countries have been establishing environmental courts or specialized environmental judges within their judiciaries, and are seeking information and assistance about the best practices for such courts from those who have had experience with such courts.

I have chosen to retire at this time to be able to spend more time developing an International Judicial Institute for Environmental Adjudication to promote the exchange of information among the judges and administrators of the courts and

tribunals doing this important work. The International Judicial Institute is initially being developed by a panel of judges from Vermont, Brazil, Kenya, New South Wales, and Belgium, in connection with professors from the Pace University Law School, Vermont Law School, and the law faculty of University College, London, but in time will be operated as a truly global organization by and for environmental judges worldwide.

I also hope to have time to do some academic writing and teaching to pull together and leave a lasting legacy of some of the environmental jurisprudence developed through the first twenty years of the Vermont Environmental Court.

Perhaps most important of all, I hope to be able to spend time at home and with my family, especially with my grandchildren!

Please let me know if you have any questions, and how I may best be of help during the transition.

My very warmest regards,

Judge Merideth Wright

cc: Hon. John A. Dooley, III  
Hon. Denise R. Johnson  
Hon. Marilyn S. Skoglund  
Hon. Brian L. Burgess