

**VERMONT SUPREME COURT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RULES FOR ELECTRONIC FILING**

Minutes for: September 12, 2025

Committee Attendance:

Committee Members	Attendance
Honorable John A. Dooley	Present
Honorable Rory Thibault	Absent
Honorable David Fenster	Present
Honorable Megan Shafritz	Present
Honorable Jennifer Barrett	Present
Marcia Schels	Present
Chasity Stoots-Fonberg	Present
Laura LaRosa	Present
Michelle McDonald	Present
Elizabeth Kruska, Esq.	Absent
Steven Brown, Esq.	Absent
Jordana Levine, Esq.	Absent
Jonathan Rose	Present
Laura Gans	Present

Also present (nonvoting): Emily Wetherell, Reporter

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. March 14, 2025 Meeting**
- b. July 29, 2025 Special Meeting**

Attorney Rose moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2025 meeting; Ms. McDonald seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

J. Shafritz moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2025 special meeting; Ms. Schels seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

2. Update on Efiling for PRB Hearing Panel Cases (Reporter Wetherell)

Proposed amendments to the efiling rules and AO 9 needed to implement efiling are currently out for comment. Comment period closes October 3, 2025.

J. Dooley reported that no comments had yet been received on the proposed efiling amendments. J. Dooley noted that the proposed efiling rules would have to move to promulgation along with the concurrent amendments to AO 9. J. Dooley explained that most were technical, but one AO 9 amendment was substantive and had to do with the public-access status of materials related to a disciplinary matter that resulted in a private admonition. Reporter Wetherell will inquire on the status of those amendments with the Professional Responsibility Board.

3. Court Notices to Self-Represented Litigants.

The Advisory Committee on the Rules of Civil Procedure referred an issue to the e-filing committee regarding 2020 V.R.E.F. 11(f) on notices sent to nonattorneys who are registered as efilers. The rule indicates that all notices and orders will be sent to efilers electronically but the enotice system currently only works for attorneys.

Current language of rule:

(f) Notice of Court Orders and Documents. The court will transmit any notice, order, or other document issued by the court to electronic filers by electronic means. Notice to parties who are not electronic filers will be provided by the means specified in the applicable rules of procedure for circumstances where these rules specify no alternative means.

Reporter Wetherell provided a proposed amendment to the rule in advance of the meeting:

(f) Notice of Court Orders and Documents. The court will transmit any notice, order, or other document issued by the court to electronic filers and by electronic means. ~~Notice to parties who are not electronic filers will be provided by the means specified in the applicable rules of procedure for circumstances where these rules specify no alternative means.~~

The Reporter's Notes explained that the electronic case-management system is not able to send enotices to self-represented litigants (even those who efile).

J. Fenster supported the amendment to allow some flexibility in how courts send notices. He acknowledged that usually official notice to self-represented litigants is sent by regular mail, but stated that additional notice by email is also used when time requires. He suggested that the reporter's notes make clear that it is the automated notices that cannot be sent to self-represented litigants.

Ms. LaRosa questioned how the rule change would be operationalized and how courts would know the method of notice required. Ms. Schels explained that the rule was conforming to current practice and would not require changes in practice.

Ms. Stoots-Fonberg agreed with J. Fenster that the reporter's notes should refer to automated notice from the case-management system since court staff can manually send notices and orders by email.

J. Fenster suggested language such as Automated notice through the case-management system is not available to self-represented litigants)

J. Dooley explained that will be up to the reporter on how to phrase the reporter's note.

J. Fenster moved to ask the Court to send the proposed amendment out for comment; Ms. Schels seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

4. Proposed Amendment to V.R.E.F. 9(d) [PROPOSED-VREF9\(d\)--FORCOMMENT.pdf](#)

The proposed amendment was sent out for comment and the comment period ended on June 4, 2025. There were no public comments received. The amendment was reviewed by the Legislative Committee on Judicial Rules without objection.

J. Fenster moved to ask the Court to promulgate the amendment; J. Shafritz seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Other Business

J. Dooley asked about other issue that had arisen. He mentioned that there was a discussion regarding whether filings needed to be flattened. Reporter Wetherell explained that the court users group had contacted the Judiciary regarding whether internal bookmarks or external live links could now be included in filings. The Judiciary's Change Advisory Board is exploring this possibility with Tyler Technologies and any possible security considerations and will take further action after receiving more information from the vendor.

Reminder regarding reception at Supreme Court on Thursday, September 18 at 3pm

NEXT MEETING DATE

December 12, 2025, at 9am- Reporter Wetherell will send a Zoom invitation for this meeting

PROPOSED 2026 MEETING DATES (Fridays at 9am)

March 13

June 19- changed from 6/12 to accommodate judicial college

September 11

December 11

Ms. Schels moved to adjourn; J. Fenster seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Minutes Submitted by Emily Wetherell.