

**VERMONT SUPREME COURT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
THE RULES OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO COURT RECORDS**

2024 Annual Report

I. Summary

The Advisory Committee on the Rules of Public Access to Court Records submits this report to the Vermont Supreme Court pursuant to Administrative Order No. 40, § 4. This report covers the Committee's activities during the following period: January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

During this period, the Committee met on May 3, September 13, and November 22. State's Attorney Tracy Shriver stepped down from the Committee and was replaced by Deputy State's Attorney Andrew Watts. The Committee thanks her for her years of service to the Committee.

II. Amendments Promulgated by the Court

There were no amendments to the Rules of Public Access to Court Records during this period. (Significant amendments to Rules 2, 5, 6, 7, and 9 became effective on January 1, 2024.)

III. Pending Proposed Rules

There are no pending proposed rules to the Rules of Public Access to Court Records.

IV. Matters Remaining on Committee's Agenda

The Committee is awaiting the result of the appeal in *Courthouse News Service v. Gabel*. Depending on the outcome, changes to PACR Rule 7 may be necessary.

The Committee is actively working with the Criminal Rules Committee to consider potential proposed rules addressing the public-access status of criminal subpoenas duces tecum, nontestimonial orders, and inquest materials. It may also consider whether statutory changes would be advisable concerning the inquest process.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy B. Tomasi
Superior Court Judge, Chair

Petra Halsema, Reporter