

**SUPREME COURT OF VERMONT
OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

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TO: Members of the Vermont Bar

FROM: Patricia Gabel, Esq., State Court Administrator

RE: Report on Resumption of Criminal Jury Trials

DATE: July 29, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

In late May, the Vermont Supreme Court established a Jury Restart Committee and named Associate Justices Karen Carroll and Harold Eaton as its co-chairs. The Committee was asked to consider issues relating to the resumption of criminal jury trials, which were suspended by the Supreme Court in its mid-March Declaration of a Judicial Emergency due to COVID-19. In addition to the co-chairs, the committee included two superior judges, a court operations manager, a state's attorney, a public defender, and a representative from the Vermont Bar Association.

The committee submitted its [report](#) to the Supreme Court on July 21. The report includes 28 recommendations regarding the resumption of criminal jury trials. These recommendations address a range of operational issues associated with restarting jury activity, including those relating to community safety and public health. The report does not address the resumption of civil jury trials.

The Supreme Court has asked Chief Superior Judge Brian Gearson and me to review the Committee's report and provide the Court with an implementation plan based on its recommendations. The implementation plan will be posted to the [COVID-19 and Court Operations](#) webpage once this plan has been adopted.

Thank you.
Pat