



Office of the City Clerk
39 Main Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

Phone: (802) 223-9500
Fax: (802) 223-9523
www.montpelier-vt.org

John Odum
City Clerk
jodum@montpelier-vt.org

January 12, 2021

Andrew D. Mikell
Vermont Attorneys Title Corporation
30 Kimball Avenue, Suite 206
South Burlington, VT 05403

James M. Czapiga
Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company
101 Corporate Pl # 1
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Charles R. Ebersol, Jr.
Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company
101 Corporate Pl # 1
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Cc: Christopher Roy & Robert D. Rachlin, Downs Rachlin & Martin

Northeastern US Clerks, Treasurers & Municipal Officials Stand in Opposition to Vermont Lawsuit Targeting Vermont Municipal Clerks

We, the undersigned, are northeastern US municipal clerks and treasurers who wish to express our condemnation of the lawsuit filed in December of 2020 in the Vermont courts. The lawsuit brought by the Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company would, if successful, compel Vermont municipal clerks' offices and town halls to immediately return to pre-pandemic open office hours in direct defiance of the Vermont Governor's call for limiting in person services. It also is in opposition to the power explicitly granted to town and city officials to take measures to protect their communities and staff from the spread of COVID-19.

In the midst of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this lawsuit could have implications for the health and safety of municipal employees and members of the general public. It also places an extraordinary burden on those offices that have had to furlough staff to meet the financial challenges brought by the pandemic. It is also concerning that the lawsuit, if successful, could be a vehicle to force town and city offices to maintain common, full-time working hours even beyond the pandemic. Measures such as

these would place an enormous burden on smaller communities and could necessitate significant tax increases in order to accommodate the additional burden of staffing going forward.

If successful, this legal action could become a precedent for similar actions across the northeast region and could potentially spawn similar lawsuits across the region.

As northeastern US municipal clerks and treasurers, we condemn this action in the strongest terms and hope the Vermont Courts will reject it as meritless.

Signed,

John Odum
City Clerk
Montpelier, Vermont

Elizabeth Greendale
Town Clerk
Holliston, Massachusetts

Ana Ruiz
Acting Town Clerk
Provincetown, Massachusetts

Nedra Boutwell
Town Clerk
Castleton, Vermont

Julie Delphia
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Leicester, Vermont

Karen G Troiano
Town Clerk
Stafford, Connecticut

Kathryn Scott
City Clerk
Greenfield, Massachusetts

Diane Rainey
Town Clerk
Barnard, VT, Vermont

Patricia Spruance
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Canterbury, Connecticut

Shirley Schult
Town Clerk/ Board of Registrars
Billerica, MA, Massachusetts

Linda Hamlin
Town Clerk
Huntington, Massachusetts

Deb Bourbeau
Town Clerk
Montague, Massachusetts

Lisa Kent
City Clerk
Beverly, Massachusetts

Gladys Oyola
Election Comm/Deputy Clerk
Springfield, Massachusetts

Narice Ann Casper II
Town Clerk
Town of Marshfield, Massachusetts

Colette Williams
Town Clerk
Brewster, Massachusetts

Amy Warfield
Town Clerk
Burlington, Massachusetts

Dorothy Powers
Town Clerk
Town of Westwood,

Christine Touma-Conway
Town Clerk
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Laura Streiber
Assistant Town Clerk
Manchester, Vermont

Ruth Knysh
Town Clerk
Lanesborough, Massachusetts

Jennie Freeman
Clerk
Peru, Vermont

Elizabeth Magauran
Town Clerk
Marion, Massachusetts

Nancy Giardina
Treasurer
Lanesborough, Massachusetts

Linda Hathaway
Town Clerk
Stow, Massachusetts

MaryEllen Lannon
Town Clerk
Town of Winchester,

Cynthia scrivani
Exec Director
Brockton, Massachusetts

Christine Halloran
Town Clerk
Easton, Connecticut

Mindy Jesek
Village Clerk / Treasurer
Village of Nelsonville, New York

Elaine Novia
Town Clerk
West Boylston, Massachusetts

Deborah Woodward
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Fairfax, Vermont

Jennifer Johnson
Village Clerk
Panama, New York

Susan Sullivan
Clerk/Administrator
Rouses Point, New York

Sara Airoidi
Taxpayer
South Royalton , Vermont

Sheristin Tedesco
Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Stillwater, New York

Lisa Larivee
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Franklin, Vermont

Lisa Mayone
Village Clerk
Saugerties, New York

Anita Anthony Estling
Village Clerk
Lake Placid, New York

Patrick Farrell
Administrator
United States, New York

Lynne Skinner
Town Clerk
Bozrah, Connecticut

John Giordano
Village Clerk
Lynbrook, New York

Nancy Niswender
Clerk-Treasurer /Administrator
Groton, New York

Sherry Farrell
Londonderry Town Clerk
Londonderry, New Hampshire

Belinda Yeaton
Town Clerk
Mont Vernon, New Hampshire

David Johnson
Treasurer
Mount Holly, Vermont

Lynn Parah
Assistand Town Clerk/Treasurer
Fairfax, Vermont

Joan Dargie
Town Clerk
Milford, New Hampshire

Lucrecia Wonsor
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Town of Killington , Vermont

Elizabeth E Dickerson
Town Clerk
Appleton, Maine

Kiley Deuso
Town Clerk
Richford, Vermont

Melissa Derby
Assistant Town Clerk
Richford, Vermont

Richard Newton
Town Clerk
Erving, Massachusetts

Marjorie J Hamel
Town clerk
South Royalton, Vermont

William C Joos
Treasurer
Monkton, Vermont

Laurie Frechette
Town Clerk
Dummerston , Vermont

Mark K Schilling
Clerk/Treasurer
Cambridge , Vermont

Karen Lathrop
Town Clerk
Town of Chelsea, Vermont

Janet Donohue
Asst town clerk
New Canaan, Connecticut

Sandra Pinsonault
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Dorset, Vermont

Susan Gage
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Brandon, Vermont

Kathleen Neathawk
Elected Town Clerk/Treasurer
Rockingham, Vermont

Anna Bourdon
Town Clerk / Treasurer
St. Albans Town, Vermont

Michael R Brooks
Town Clerk - Tax Collector
Madison, New Hampshire

Josephine Romano
Washington County Clerk
Montpelier, Vermont

F Charles Degener III
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Woodstock, Vermont

Daniel Healey
Town Clerk
Derry, New Hampshire

Kimberly J Moulton
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Hyde Park, Vermont

Kathleen Feeley
Treasurer and Assistant Town Clerk
Burke, Vermont

Diane H Judd
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Holland, Vermont

Nikki Tomlinson
Town Clerk
Newbury, Vermont

Terri Bills Garland
Treasurer
Jamaica, Vermont

Lisa J Johnson
Town Clerk
Spencer, Massachusetts

Sonya McLam
Town Clerk
Bradford, Vermont

Dayna Lisaius
Treasurer
Warren, Vermont

Sarah Merriman
Town Clerk
Middlesex, Vermont

Paula Scott
Assistant Town Clerk
Ripton, Vermont

Lynnette Deaette
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Jay, Vermont

Clyde Jenne
Town Clerk
Hartland, Vermont

Sara-Ann Chaine
Town Clerk
Mansfield, Connecticut

Pauline Blake O'Brien
Town Clerk
Westminster, Vermont

Jennifer Peterson
Town Clerk
Town of Waitsfield, Vermont

Stacy Jewell
Town Clerk/Treasurer
St. Johnsbury, Vermont

Sara Wiswall
Town Clerk
Jamaica, Vermont

Ellen DesMeules
Treasurer
Pomfret, Vermont

Pam Kingman
Town Clerk
New Haven, Vermont

Rebecca Fielder
Town Clerk
Pomfret, Vermont

Carol Hesselbach
Town Clerk
Newfane, Vermont

Jessica Ardila
Office Support Staff
Stamford, Connecticut

Carla Lawrence
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Waterbury, Vermont

Terri Medley
Treasurer
Troy, Vermont

Barbara Breor
Town Clerk
Goshen, Connecticut

Melissa A Boutin
Clerk & Treasurer
Grand Isle, Vermont

Kimberlee Dufresne
Town Clerk / Treasurer
Town of Sheldon, Vermont

Anita Bean
Town Clerk
Townshend, Vermont

Laura L Halloran
Town Clerk
Morris, Connecticut

Pamela Theroux
Town Clerk
Voluntown, Connecticut

Michael Bouchard
Town Clerk
Groton, Massachusetts

Susan Covalla
Town Clerk
Mount Holly, Vermont

Janet H Yates
TownClerk/Treasurer
South Hero, Vermont

Christine B Emerson
Town Clerk
Town of Cheshire, MA

Robin Wilcox
Town Clerk
Arlington, Vermont

Rosemary Morse
Town Clerk
Berlin, Vermont

Cindy Woodward
Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Milan, New Hampshire

Flo-Ann Dango
Town Clerk
Weathersfield, Vermont

Katie Winkeljohn
Town Clerk
Town of Worcester, Vermont

Carol Dawes
City Clerk/Treasurer
Barre City, Vermont

Tammy Legacy
Town Clerk
Roxbury, Vermont

Susan Scott
Town Clerk
Salisbury, Vermont

Robert Waddick
City Clerk
Waltham, Massachusetts

Kelly Pajala
Town Clerk
Londonderry, Vermont

Sanda Gallup
Treasurer/Asst. Town Clerk
Waitsfield , Vermont

Donna Bohannon
Town Clerk/Treasurer/Lister
Alburgh, Vermont

Elizabeth Jones
Assistant Town Clerk
Waterbury, Vermont

Alberta A Miller
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Hardwick, Vermont

Lucille Evarts
Treasurer/Assistant Clerk
Waltham, Vermont

Bonnie J Munday
Town Clerk
Norwich, Vermont

Rose M Keough
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Sunderland, Vermont

Elizabeth Reighley
Municipal Clerk
Montgomery, Vermont

Ruth Millett
Town Clerk/Tax Collector
Groton, NH, New Hampshire

John Myers
Town Clerk
Town of Buxton, Maine

William St Peter
Town Clerk & Tresurer
Sheffield, Vermont

Kathleen Spofford
Town Clerk
Townsend, Massachusetts

Rosemary Mckinnon
Town Clerk
Goshen, Vermont

Rita Hull
Treasurer
Royalton, Vermont

Amanda Haggstrom
City Clerk
Amesbury, Massachusetts

Suzanne Dechame
Town Clerk
Fair Haven, Vermont

Lisa Walker
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Stowe, Vermont

Deb Tanguay
Town Clerk
Coventry, Vermont

Tracy Borst
Clerk/Treasurer
Thetford Center, Vermont

Heidi Racht
Town Clerk
Huntington, Vermont

Jessica Brassard
Town Clerk
Braintree, Vermont

Billie Draper
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Enosburgh, Vermont

Judith Robert
Town Clerk
Calais, Vermont

Jayne Marie Davolio
Town Clerk
Millbury, Massachusetts

Geneva Bickford
Assistant Town Clerk
Greenfield, Massachusetts

Kerri Fillion
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of East Haven, Vermont

Wendy Somers
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Danville, Vermont

Jerry A Barcelow
Royalton Selectboard Member
South Royalton, Vermont

Nancy Ertle
Town Clerk
Corinth, Vermont

Cynthia Gaboriault
Town Clerk
Concord, Vermont

Sheryl Brown
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Granby, Vermont

Julie Graeter
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Colchester, Vermont

Danielle Ingalls
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Irasburg, Vermont

Kristen Estelle
Town Clerk
Goshen, Massachusetts

Diana Peduzzi
Town Clerk
Woodbury, Vermont

TammyLee Morin
Town Clerk/Treas
Morgan , Vermont

George Blakeslee
Guildhall Town Clerk
Guildhall, Vermont

Kim Greaves
Town Clerk
Greensboro, Vermont

Maggie McCormick
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Panton, Vermont

Forrest Holzapfel
Town Clerk
Marlboro, Vermont

Nora Sargent
Town clerk/Treasurer
Wells, Vermont

Lisa M Bragg
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Strafford, Vermont

Marlene Hall
Town Clerk
and Del. Tax Collector
Shaftsbury, Vermont

Therese Lounsbury
Town Clerk
Wilmington, Vermont

Bobbi Brimblecombe
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Marshfield, Vermont

Carrie Peters
Town Clerk
Groton, Vermont

Gina Vigneault
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Norton, Vermont

Cynthia Flannigan
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Topsham, Vermont

Brian Stroffolino
Assistant Clerk
Hartland, Vermont

Curry Galloway
City Clerk
St. Albans City , Vermont

Edwina Valenza
Asstistant Town Clerk
Town of Marshfield , Vermont

Christy M Pion
Town Clerk
Town of Lowell, Vermont

Donna Kelty
Town Clerk-Treasurer
Barre Town, Vermont

Anita Sheldon
Town Clerk
Manchester, Vermont

Priscilla Aldrich
Retired Town Clerk, Treasurer
Town of Burke, Vermont

Carol Barrett
City Clerk
Winooski , Vermont

Kim Seymour
Clerk/Treasurer
Weston, Vermont

Georgette Wolf-Ludwig
Town Clerk
Fairlee, Vermont

Andy McLean
Town Clerk
Dover, Vermont

Franklin Goodkin
retired
Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

Diedre Seeley
Resident
Killington, Vermont

Terrie Look
Vermont resident
Belvidere, Vermont

Chris Lillie
Business owner
Stockbridge, Vermont

Lori A Shepard
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Stamford, Vermont

Danielle Sicard
Town Clerk
Easton, Massachusetts

Lori Scott
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Stockbridge, Vermont

Martha Fowler
Town of Plaistow
Plaistow, New Hampshire

Debra Hafwkins
Municipal Clerk
Pawlet, Vermont

Timothy Arsenault
Town Clerk
Vernon, Vermont

Kelly McDermott-Burns
Assistant Town Clerk
Stockbridge, Vermont

Alison Joseph Dickinson
Town Clerk
Ripton, Vermont

Mary Byrne
citizen
Mendon, Vermont

Linda Mcguire
Treasurer
Shrewsbury, Vermont

Beth Dawley
Lister
Stockbridge,, Vermont

Barbara Graham
Town Clerk
Williamstown, Vermont

Patti Lewis
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Fayston, Vermont

Andrew Dowd
Town Clerk
Northborough, Massachusetts

Deborah Moser
Assistant Town Clerk
Weston, Vermont

Diana Vachon
Town Clerk
Shelburne, Vermont

Dawn Custer
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Hubbardton, Vermont

Catherine Harder-Bernier
Town Clerk
Hanover, Massachusetts

Cassandra Barbeau
Town Clerk
Bennington, Vermont

Jeannette Eckert
Assistant Town Clerk
West Dover, Vermont

Joyce Mazzucco
Town Clerk & Treasurer
Randolph, Vermont

Kerri Parker
Town Clerk
Meredith, New Hampshire

Kelly Darling
Asst Town Clerk
Orleans, Massachusetts

Cathy J Mander-Adams
Town Clerk
Belvidere, Vermont

Kristin Kenniston
City Clerk
Lebanon, New Hampshire

Jessica Sweeney
Town Clerk / Treasurer
Glover, Vermont

Lina Smith
Clerk/Treasurer
Walden, Vermont

Linda Parent
Town Clerk
Richmond, Vermont

Sue Skidgell
Deputy clerk
Caribou, Maine

Karmen Bascom
Town Clerk
Royalton, Vermont

Susan McNamara-Hill
Town Clerk
Essex, Vermont

Katlin Burnor
Williamstown
Williamstown, Vermont

Julie Mach
Treasurer
Pawlet, Vermont

Sherri Morin
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Underhill, Vermont

Elizabeth Grant
Town Clerk/Treasurer
Bondville, Vermont

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk
Westford, Vermont

ATTACHMENT 1

Comments included with signatures:

This lawsuit puts us all in danger. We have families and co-workers to worry about too.

I hope that the Judicial Branch does not enter into this arena as it is outside the scope of its Constitutional authority.

This has no merit.

Sending all my support from Jamaica.

I fully support my fellow Clerks & Treasurers.

I don't know of anyone who has requested access to our official records who has been denied. The system works well, and we all stay safe.

I feel this is an outrage! My father in law passed away from COVID-19 back in April, so I for one am super careful about who I am around, and who has access to our town office. This is a very serious virus, one that cannot be taken lightly. Please, please reconsider this Law Suite.

I find it hard to believe that anyone has been denied access or has not been provided the material if requested. I fully support my fellow Clerks and Treasurers.

A private, national title insurance company should not dictate policies created by Vermont elected officials for the health and safety of Vermont citizens and public employees.

We have done everything to accommodate all requests in a manner that keeps us safe during COVID. This lawsuit is a complete insult to Clerks, Treasurers and all other municipal personnel, whether elected, employed or appointed!

This is definitely a kick in the teeth. I believe that all us clerks and treasurers have done their best to provide what is needed during this trying time. They need to walk in our shoes before they start criticizing and attacking.

This was an pandemic and is not the usual way things are done!

I feel we have bent over backwards to accommodate all searchers and I know all clerks are doing the same.

Given the increase in the COVID Crisis this is unthinkable!

My assistant and I (oh, by the way we have been working not completely closed all along) have spent a lot of time trying to be sure everyone could get what they needed from our office during this pandemic and this accusation by an out of state group is appalling. Wonder how much cooperation they are getting from their own State's Town and City Clerks?

Every municipality is differently equipped to handle the pandemic. Who better to judge what's best in providing the delicate balance between good customer service and the health and safety of it's citizens ? Answer: each individual municipality! (hopefully a panel including the EMD, governing body and department heads). Someone in CT has no clue what our needs are in Northern NH.

The vast majority of clerks throughout Vermont have worked tirelessly for more than 9 months developing ways to assist residents and customers while keeping themselves, their staffs and the public safe. Kudos to the clerks, and shame on those who aren't taking public safety into consideration in these challenging times.

I have been working hard to keep the staff protected against Covid. I did not take it lightly when I closed my office for research. My staff goes out of their way to help people obtain the necessary information. I have received no complaints.

I was shocked when I read about this lawsuit in my local paper and even more disturbed now as I contemplate the potential implications for Clerks and Treasurers across New England. In my office we have worked extremely hard to be sure researchers have what they need to do their jobs, all the while trying to wrap our heads around the consequences of even one of us contracting Covid-19. Were that to happen, our office would have to totally shut down, something that would have consequences for all researchers, not just those associated with Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company. We need to keep everyone safe so that information can continue to flow. This lawsuit shows the selfishness of the company that filed it. I hope it is rejected by the court.

What are they thinking? It is outrageous that they want to put people's lives at risk to suit their commercial needs.

We share an office with the Village Clerk and our Delinquent Tax Collector (a separate elected official) and this would infringe on their comfort also. We are working very hard to be sure that the people are taken care of and we are open to title searchers by appointment. I do not agree with this lawsuit and will gladly sign this petition.

Our office, like many, does not have the room to go back to business as usual and socially distance for safety. We are all doing the best we can. We have worked hard to be sure we offer as diverse an appointment schedule as possible. Best of luck to the Clerk's named in this lawsuit, I am sorry you are faced with this and you have my full support.

Vermont Clerk and Treasurers have always put their towns first and do what is best for everyone.

We have all gone out of our way to provide the best service possible while keeping ourselves, our coworkers and our families safe. It is a sad statement when our local officials are the target of out-of-state interests. These people don't care whether you get sick and die as long as they get instant gratification and can bill their clients for much more money than any of us will see in a year's salary. Be aware that this foolhardy behaviour will impact the health of each and every community in this state. It is time to stand up to those who would willingly jeopardize all of our health and say ENOUGH! Our state's health remains strong because we are not feckless. What will be next? A lawsuit against the Governor and Health Officials for their mandates for maintaining public health?

My office isn't big enough to allow people to pile in - business as usual. As in many towns, if I get sick a lot more shuts down than just the access to our records. I'm baffled as to why anyone would think opening our doors without appointments, etc would be a good idea. We are one of the safest states for a reason.

If persons who are initiating this lawsuit are particularly concerned with the health of the Town Officials, they may opt to provide protection by way of windows and shield in Town Halls. We have a window in Groton, NH and still came down with COVID. We are frontline and should benefit from some of the monies floating around for essential workers.

We have an intercom system and still see the public but limit the number of people in the building. To open fully puts all the workers in the Town Hall at risk. We continue to service the public and have had no complaints from the general public.

Our small town has worked hard to accommodate all needing to come in to the Town Clerk's office in a safe manner. We have had no complaints with our COVID regulations.

Like many other small towns, we have had to make changes to comply with the Governor's orders. Our office had someone working to assist anyone that needed town records. We have gone above and beyond to can and email information and documents to anyone who needed it, and all this at no charge. This is very sad to think under these stressful times that this is how some companies choose to deal with the current situation, many of whom are still working from home themselves. This would put an enormous financial burden on smaller towns, and hopefully that courts will see this as unfounded.

We have done all we can to keep everyone safe. A little patience and understanding goes a long way.

All the Town Clerks I know go above and beyond to help people no matter the situation. It is unsafe to have in-person searches at this time. All business at a Town Clerks can be done through mail, email, phone or land record portals and during Covid should be.

I fully support my fellow clerks and treasurers. This is ridiculous and without merit. I have received not one complaint on how we have been conducting business. All my researchers have been understanding during the pandemic.

Every Vermont town/city's resources and buildings are different. Allowing a "one size fits all" decision to cater to one title company, will jeopardize the wellbeing and financial security of some communities.

The Vermont Town Clerks that I know are working more hours than ever to make sure all records requests are filled while keeping employees and citizens safe. I wonder if this national company can fathom what would happen if someone in a small Vermont town office were to get sick and need to isolate. In my town there are two employees to do the Clerk and Treasurer functions. If one of us gets COVID, we would both have to quarantine. No one would be left to do payroll, pay bills, accept recording, and certainly no one would be filling records requests. For them to demand that we go against the Governor's and ACCD's guidelines is unthinkable.

We have had no complaints here, searchers have had to make appointments and wear masks.

We work hard to keep everyone safe and accommodate everyone that needs to come into our office.

I fully believe that each municipal official is doing their best to meet all the needs of various stakeholders who need access to municipal records and services. It is absurd to allow big business to dictate the working hours of any entity, let alone government offices. CATIC is based in CT. Why would the State of VT allow a CT business dictate VT work practices? Is this CT company sending employees who live in CT to VT to conduct in-person research? If so, are they quarantining 7 to 14 days before entering the town office? If they are not sending employees in person, then they should respect that, although municipal employees work for the public, they are not mandated to do the work of title searchers.

Vermont is doing a good job keeping our communities safe. It is very selfish of the Connecticut Attorneys to think they know more about Vermont communities safety than our Governor! We as clerks do all we can to help all people get the information they need.

No one has the right to tell towns how to run their offices.

I am a retired Town clerk. I support all Clerks

This complaint does not belong before the court, this is an unprecedented time and circumstance.

I object to a title insurance company trying to override the power of the state of Vermont and its officials. Our precautions are the reason VT is doing so well in this pandemic. We have 2 clerks and a small office space. Should one of us get sick the other would have to quarantine and there would be no one at the office.

While I take our responsibility to make Land Records available very seriously, the law in question was not written with a potentially life threatening pandemic in mind.

Safety is so important now, our clerk has provided needed information, keeping appointments.

What business of CTs what we do in VT?

The Clerks are making every effort to provide all the information to the real estate people. This company I believe only allows hands on viewing of documents.

Throughout the pandemic, we have done everything in our power to provide records and information to anyone who requests it. While also following the directives and executive orders issued by the State, OSHA, VOSHA, ACCD, CDC and Vermont Department of Health. Our main objective is to keep our offices, ourselves, our community, our families and researchers safe and healthy. As elected officials during this pandemic, our jobs have become much more complex and demanding and we have had to come up with ways to run our offices safely for all involved. We did not create this pandemic and should not be pressured into allowing physical access to researchers potentially coming from hot spots. We have provided every service possible in a safe way and have never denied anyone information....ever!

This lawsuit has no merit . We are all doing the best we can, given that clerks I. Small Vermont towns are normally older and in a covid risk group

Throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Vermont Town Clerks have strived to serve their communities as best as they could under extraordinary conditions. Many smaller town offices may not be able to accommodate the 6 foot social distancing as required by the Governor's orders. I know for the Town of Randolph, when the office first shut down in March, I continued to allow researchers in to do their title searches even before the Governor allowed it. It was and is by appointment only. No one has been denied access. It just may be a little inconvenient because researchers have to arrange their schedules.

This lawsuit saddens me. The extra effort and hours my assistant and I have worked to maintain new and higher safety and scheduling requirements along with increasing ways to obtain documents despite State restrictions has been priority one for us.

I also object to Connecticut Attorneys Title Insurance Company's efforts to override the power of the State of Vermont and its officials.

Our office has provided appointments and scanned records to all requests as other clerks have and have followed the guidance from the governor.

I am saddened by this lawsuit filed against some of my fellow town clerks. COVID-19 has brought unprecedented times in which town clerks had to adjust to in order to provide services. Each town's ability to provide services looked different due to different circumstances. In these times, one size does not fit all and I hope the court sees that.

Richmond has been taking proper precautions and assisting the public thru email and appointments to see land records in a timely manner. I believe all VT Clerks have been most accommodating to all. We have received no complaints.

This lawsuit is disheartening. This pandemic has been an incredibly trying and tiring time. COVID is not a joke and has very real risks of death. As a Town Clerk, I take my job very seriously. I have worked an inordinate number of hours ensuring things continue to run smoothly while abiding by all the COVID restrictions. I have ensured, and continue to ensure, that all Land Record search requests are supported through completion while also protecting the health of our employees and townspeople.

Standing in solidarity with you!

This lawsuit is really egregious! 2020 has been an incredibly difficult time for all of us, but I think all Clerks have gone above and beyond to supply reasonable customer service to everyone. We are all human beings who are doing our best, but for some, it appears that is just not enough. How disheartening!

2020 proved to be a year that required all Clerks offices nationally to go above and beyond to implement new Covid-19 guidelines, institute creative ways to serve constituents and also administer the biggest election that many of us have seen in our professional careers. Most New England Clerks that I know worked nights, weekends and 60 plus hours to implement new Vote By Mail rules as well as perform our "regular" duties. This lawsuit shows a lack of understanding and care for the hard work that so many Clerks do to serve their communities.

As a Town Clerk myself, I am well aware how we have all had to go above and beyond in 2020 to run smooth elections as well as our day to day office needs. If the Clerk is exposed and the Clerk's Office goes down, you will be well aware of just how much is done in that office. How sad that you would be willing to jeopardize their health.

I support the rights of a municipality to provide the services for our residents that we feel fits their needs. Health and Safety being one of the concerns.

We have learned during the time we have been closed to build a better mousetrap and found a way to serve our public and keep everyone safe. I'm not sure why anyone would want to change that as we approach a time when things might finally get better. Who runs your local government if the people who actually know how to run it get sick? This lawsuit is irresponsible folly.

We need to keep our city and town clerks safe!!! I stand in solidarity with you!!!

The municipal government has a right, and the responsibility, to provide services to its residents as it deems appropriate to protect the health and safety of staff and residents. The municipal work is still being completed even if buildings are closed to the public and reduced hours. Municipal government already operates with minimal staff and little cross training between departments. Government will shut down if one or more staff become ill or worse die because we failed to take precautions.

As a fellow clerk, we too have restricted our office hours, but have continued to serve the public and their needs. This lawsuit is entirely baseless.

This lawsuit is disheartening and irresponsible. Town Clerks have worked very hard, going above and beyond to meet all responsibilities and requests of their residents as well as carry out extremely difficult elections in 2020. It is sad to see what little respect is given to this office. It is even sadder to see how little the health of the Clerks is considered.

I CONDEMN THIS ACTION IN THE STRONGEST TERMS AND HOPE THE VERMONT COURTS WILL REJECT IT AS MERITLESS

Municipal clerks and employees work hard to provide services to our community. To do so effectively during COVID, has been challenging. The ability to limit exposure by reducing office hours for in person business is essential. Technology has allowed us to conduct business and serve our residents with very little reduction in services. This is a difficult time when we all should be working together not being sued for doing our job. This lawsuit is a waste of time and money.

As with many other professions, Clerks and Treasurers are working harder than ever during this pandemic time to keep their municipalities running smoothly. This frivolous lawsuit only serves to undermine that and wreck more havoc at a time when everyone needs to be working together.

Supporting the ability of Mayors to close facilities to the Public, while having Clerks/staff provide essential services (to attorneys) remotely.

Every Municipality is different in size and abilities. During this trying time it has been difficult to find a proper balance of providing service and keeping our employees and residents safe. In order to keep our office running it has been imperative to adjust our working schedule and in person availability. Each municipality should have the choice to find the solution that works best for them.

There is no way that I could safely reopen my doors. We've had no complaints and are continuing to serve the townspeople in a timely manner

I plan to remain closed to the public for walk in traffic till this is pandemic is over. We are still working and we are working more than ever.