

ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

January 31, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

That approval be and hereby is given to increase the rate of pay for Christen Lavers, Assistant Attorney General (Position #9U577, Appropriation #02-20-20-200010-2620-013-500132), from an hourly pay rate of \$38.57 to an hourly pay rate of \$46.15 **retroactive** to July 2, 2021, upon Governor and Executive Council approval, as authorized by 2001 N.H. Laws Chapter 158, Section 101, and 2021 N.H. Laws Chapter 91.

EXPLANATION

Ms. Lavers is a resident of Concord and a member of the New Hampshire Bar. She earned a Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, from the University of New Hampshire in 2000 and her Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, from Suffolk University Law School in 2004. From 2004 to 2005 she was Governor John Lynch's Executive Assistant. From 2005 to 2008, and again from 2009 to 2013, she served as the Governor's Special Assistant for Policy while simultaneously serving as Acting Director of Appointments and Liaison to Executive Council for an eight-month period in 2010. Ms. Lavers joined the Department's Civil Law Bureau in 2013 as Counsel to the State of New Hampshire's Health Benefits Plan. She occupies a full-time unclassified position but currently works part time. Ms. Lavers is paid hourly in the payroll system to ensure that she receives proper compensation as a part-time employee. Although she is a Department of Justice (DOJ) employee, the costs of the position are funded by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) in accordance with the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding first executed on July 9, 2012. Her current rate of pay is \$38.57 per hour. I propose to raise her rate of pay by \$7.58 per hour to a total of \$46.15 per hour. The increased rate of pay has been agreed to by DAS. This item is **retroactive** because salaried DOJ attorneys were granted raises at the September 15, 2022 Governor and Council meeting, item #76, retroactive to July 2, 2022; as the

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only part-time, unclassified, hourly paid attorney at the Department, Ms. Lavers was omitted from the earlier requested action item.

RSA 94:1-a(1)(c)(3) provides that designation of positions, salary levels, and salary increases for attorneys at the Department of Justice shall be determined by the Attorney General, subject to approval of the Governor and Council, within appropriations made to the Department of Justice.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this request. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Formella
Attorney General

#3441337

Christen Lavers

Experience:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Concord, NH

Counsel to State of New Hampshire Health Benefit Plan

January 2013 – Present

- Provide legal counsel to the Department of Administrative Services, Risk Management Unit State Employee and Retiree Health Benefit Plan.
- Conduct legal research and provide advice regarding state and federal compliance issues.
- Assist with procurement of Health Plan vendors.
- Provide general counsel regarding other legal issues as necessary including but not limited to the Right to Know law, legislation, the Affordable Care Act and HIPAA.

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JOHN LYNCH, Concord, NH

December 2004 – January 2013

- Development and implementation of policy initiatives. Management of agency priorities, budget and legislation.
- Relevant policy areas included education, economic development, health and human services, judiciary, election law and gaming.
- Liaison to Executive Council and Director of Appointments (9 months).

MASSACHUSETTS OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Boston, MA

Legal Intern, June 2003 – April 2004

- Conducted legal research, investigated consumer issues, developed and implemented consumer protection policies, reviewed and drafted proposed legislation and regulations, assisted with web design.

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JEANNE SHAHEEN, Concord, NH

Special Assistant for Citizen Affairs, May 2000 – May 2001

- Assisted constituents with inquiries relative to policy issues including: consumer protection, corrections, domestic issues, public utilities, gun control, health care and legal issues. Drafted letters, public comments and proclamations. Director of intern program.

Education:

SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL, Boston, MA

J.D., May 2004

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, Durham, NH

B.A., May 2000