

ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JAMES T. BOFFETTI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

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November 21, 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 the Attorney General to appoint R. Christopher Knowles to Position #9U499 (Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2610-013-500132) as an Attorney at a salary level of \$90,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval or January 13, 2023, whichever is later.

EXPLANATION

Mr. Knowles earned his Bachelor of Science in Economics from University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2012; Master of Science in Applied Economics from Johns Hopkins University in 2015; Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School in 2015; and Master of Laws from Indiana University, Robert H. McKinney School of Law in 2017. In addition to his studies, he served as Director of the Caribbean Sustainable Development Organization in Washington, D.C., from 2013 to 2016. He joined the Alaska Legal Services Corporation in Bethel, Alaska, as a Staff Attorney in 2017, where he was responsible for tribal court development in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Region, coordinated outreach and travel to 64 surrounding communities, and represented victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in district and superior court. He was appointed District Attorney in 2018 for the Bethel District Attorney's Office, which has jurisdiction over an area the size of Oregon. In addition to supervising nine attorneys, four paralegals, four law office assistants, and an investigator, he prosecutes a full case load of criminal matters—including nearly 20 homicides and over 70 sexual assaults. He will relinquish his current position in December and relocate with his family to Weare. He is currently admitted to practice law in Alaska and New York and is pending admission to the New Hampshire Bar. Considering Mr. Knowles' experience, I am requesting he be appointed as an Attorney at a salary of \$90,000. He will be assigned to the Criminal Justice Bureau. A copy of his resume is attached.

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RSA 21-M:3 and RSA 94:1-a(I)(c) provide 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 am very pleased to offer Mr. Knowles' appointment as an Attorney at the above-referenced salary for your approval and respectfully urge your favorable consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Formella
Attorney General

#3789692

R. CHRISTOPHER KNOWLES

EDUCATION

Indiana University, Robert H. McKinney School of Law, LL.M. Corporate and Commercial Law, May 2017

Vermont Law School, Juris Doctor, May 2015

Activities: New England Survivors of Torture and Trauma (NESTT)
Women's Law Student Association, Conference Co-Chair
Latino & Caribbean Law Student Association, Event Director

Georgetown Law, Visiting Student, January 2015 – May 2015

Johns Hopkins University, Master of Science, Applied Economics, May 2015

Thesis: Alternative Valuation of Mortality & Morbidity Risk Reduction from Environmental Policies

University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Bachelor of Science, Economics, June 2012

Activities: Men's Tennis Team
Student Ambassador, Peer Mentor, Resident Assistant

EXPERIENCE

Bethel District Attorney's Office, Bethel, Alaska June 2018 – Present

District Attorney

Investigated and researched the factual basis of cases to prepare for trial. Handled a caseload consisting of the most significant cases in the office including homicides, sexual assaults, and sexual abuse of minor cases. Handled administrative duties including interviewing, hiring and training new attorneys and paralegals. Engaged in day-to-day management of the office. Presented cases to Grand Jury, conducted hearings and tried cases. Interpreted and applied laws, court decisions and other legal authorities for use in preparation of cases, opinions and briefs. Negotiate plea agreements with opposing council. I served as an Assistant District Attorney from June 2018 through August 2020 when I was appointed Deputy District Attorney. I have served as District Attorney since July 2021.

Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Bethel, Alaska

September 2017 – May 2018

Staff Attorney

Responsible for tribal court development in the YK Delta Region. Coordinated with AVCP to engage in outreach to rural Alaskan villages. Engaged in legal research, and litigation in state and tribal courts. Coordinated regional outreach and travel to 64 surrounding communities. Represented victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in district and superior court.

Indiana University Health, Indianapolis, Indiana

January 2017 – May 2017

Legal Extern, Legal Services

Gained experience and insight derived from working in the in-house legal department at IU Health. Duties included drafting and reviewing contracts, engaging in legal research and preparing memoranda regarding business and health law issues confronting IU Health, and otherwise assisting in legal work typical of that performed by corporate counsel.

Caribbean Sustainable Development Organization (CSDO), Washington, D.C.

June 2013 – August 2016

Director

The mission of the Caribbean Sustainable Development Organization is to reduce poverty throughout the Caribbean through comprehensive sustainable development. Directed legal oversight to ensure that the CSDO operated in accordance with its mission and the purpose for which it was granted tax-exempt status. Directed management oversight, and financial oversight including setting and approving annual budgets. Directed program oversight to ensure that programs were in place to further the mission and goals of the organization.

U.S. SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION, Washington, D.C.

Full-Time Honors Intern, Division of Enforcement, Student Honors Program

January 2015 – May 2015

Investigated industry and issuer practices related to ongoing investigations; researched and analyzed cases and statutes; prepared action memoranda and court filings; attended seminars, workshops, and Commission meetings related to securities regulation and enforcement; completed training in Recomind, CaseMap and Bloomberg Finance.

LAW OFFICE OF THE PITT COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER, Greenville, NC

Legal Intern

May 2014 – August 2014

(NC's 3L Practice Rule) Researched and analyzed discovery material; drafted motions; represented indigent persons charged with murder, or embezzlement in Eastern North Carolina; member of the legal team that represented two brothers who were exonerated after serving over 31 years on death row (*State v. McCollum & Brown*, 312 NC 517 (1988)).