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# New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights



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May 17, 2023

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

## REQUESTED ACTION

Pursuant to RSA 354-A:5, XII, authorize the New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights to accept a cash bequest from the Dr. Christine M. Sweeney Revocable Trust of 2009 in the amount of \$2,000, effective upon Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2025. **100% Other Funds.**

Funds are to be budgeted in Fiscal Year 2023 in the following account:

02-20-76-760010-10410000, Human Rights Commission, Enforcement

Class-Account	Description	FY2023 Adjusted Authorized	Requested Action	FY2023 Revised Adjusted Authorized
<b>Source Of Funds</b>				
000-403735-16	Federal Funds	134,045	0	134,045
005-401734-20	Private Local Funds	0	2,000	2,000
	General Funds	858,795	0	858,795
	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$992,840</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$ 994,840</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
010-500100	Personal Services Perm Class	510,352	0	510,352
018-500106	Overtime	499	0	499
020-500200	Current Expenses	22,200	0	22,200
022-500248	Rents-Leases Other Than State	50,724	0	50,724
027-582703	Transfers To Doit	14,693	0	14,693
030-500301	Equipment New Replacement	14,263	0	14,263
037-500174	Technology-Hardware	620	0	620
038-500175	Technology-Software	620	0	620
039-500188	Telecommunications	9,500	0	9,500
040-500800	Indirect Costs	5,796	0	5,796
041-500801	Audit Fund Set Aside	132	0	132
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	4,635	0	4,635

049-584995	Transfer To Other State Agency	363	0	363
050-500109	Personal Service Temp Appointments	65,640	0	65,640
057-500535	Books Periodicals Subscript	2,750	0	2,750
060-500602	Benefits	267,871	0	267,871
062-500538	Workers Compensation	1,470	0	1,470
066-500543	Employee Training	2,040	2,000	4,040
069-500567	Promotional Marketing Exp	868	0	868
070-500704	In State Travel Reimbursement	3,000	0	3,000
080-500710	Out Of State Travel Reimbursement	1,000	0	1,000
103-502664	Contracts for Op Services	10,054	0	10,054
230-500765	Interpreter Service	2,500	0	2,500
233-500774	Litigation Expense	1,250	0	1,250
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$992,840</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$994,840</b>

### EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights requests authorization to accept the unsolicited cash bequest from the Christine M. Sweeney Revocable Trust of 2009 in the amount of \$2,000. Dr. Christine Sweeney was borne and raised in Keene, NH. After high school, she enrolled in Keene Teacher's College in 1943, receiving her bachelor's degree in education. Dr. Sweeney went on to work in the field of education in East Swanzey, then during the war as an Assistant Aircraft Communicator with the Civil Aeronautics Administration during World War II. This job assignment first placed Christine in Boston, then she moved to New York, working at LaGuardia Airport where she remained until V-E Day.

Dr. Sweeney resumed working in education as well as pursuing her own education and was awarded a doctoral degree in 1962 with her dissertation on the instruction of students with intellectual disabilities in public schools. Catherine worked in New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Virginia. She ultimately returned to New Hampshire in 1969 and became a faculty member of Keene State College, where she taught until retirement in 1992.

Dr. Sweeney filed a charge with the NH CHR in 1974 against her then employer, Keene State College, for employment discrimination based on sex. She was passed over for a promotion to full professor. The outcome of the case was a Probable Cause finding for Dr. Sweeney through the Commission's process; however, it would take an additional four years before her case would find a resolution. *Sweeney v. Bd. Of Trustees, Keene St. College* was not only heard here in New Hampshire, but was also heard in the U.S. Supreme Court. After multiple court hearings, and a lengthy appeals process, Dr. Sweeney's case was finally resolved. The Court ultimately found in favor of Dr. Catherine Sweeney's original charge of sex discrimination. In other words, she was passed over for a promotion due to her sex in violation of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and was therefore discriminated against. Dr. Sweeney was finally vindicated and hired as a full professor by the College in 1976. However, the court ordered her pay to be backdated to 1975, the date of her second attempt to obtain a promotion. Furthermore, the Court awarded Dr. Sweeney attorney's fees and other costs incurred to the sum of \$17,766.56. Although the court did find a pattern of sex discrimination against females in the areas of hiring, promotion, and salaries, there was no additional action issued against further discrimination.

Funds are to be budgeted as follows:

Class 066 – Employee Training to provide additional availability for staff trainings.

The Commission wishes to accept this kind bequest with sincere appreciation.

Very truly yours,

Ahni Malachi  
Executive Director

#### References:

[Sweeney v. Bd. of Trustees, Keene St. College, 569 F.2d 169 | Casetext Search + Citator](#)

# BRADLEY & FAULKNER, PC

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January 11, 2023

N.H. Commission of Human Rights  
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Concord, NH 03301

RECEIVED

FEB 24 2023

NH Commission for Human Rights

Re: Christine M. Sweeney Revocable Trust of 2009

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

Christine M. Sweeney died on November 11, 2022. This office represents Mary Nan Moser, the Trustee of the Christine M. Sweeney Revocable Trust of 2009. Mrs. Moser has asked us to assist with distributing the cash bequests that Ms. Sweeney made in her Trust.

Ms. Sweeney made a bequest to your organization in her Trust in the amount of \$2,000.00. A check is enclosed for that amount.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact either Mr. Bradley or me.

Very truly yours,



Vicki L. Bacon,  
Probate Paralegal

Enclosure