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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

July 19, 2023

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

Requested Action

In accordance with RSA 94:6, New Appointments, the Public Utilities Commission respectfully requests to place Sarah Fuller at Step 3 for the position of Senior Advisor (Position #9U679) unclassified salary grade GG, earning \$98,842 annually, effective July 28, 2023, upon Governor and Council approval. **100% Other Funds (Utility Assessment)**

Explanation

Chapter 91, section 194 of the Laws of 2021 established six unclassified Senior Advisor positions at the Public Utilities Commission. The Senior Advisors are appointed by the Chair of the Public Utilities Commission to advise the Utilities Commissioners on matters pertaining to engineering, economics, accounting, finance, or law. Five of the positions are currently filled.

To fill the position the Commission posted a job listing beginning April 20, 2023, in the State of NH job opportunities candidate space (JOB ID: 30653), the Public Utilities Commission employment opportunities webpage, and advertised the listing in the Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly and the NH BAR Association.

Three candidates were interviewed who met the minimum qualifications described in JOB ID: 30653 by three interview panels comprised of current staff and the commissioners. The candidate that applied who was the highest qualified for the position was Sarah Fuller.

Ms. Fuller is an attorney who is a member of the New Hampshire bar and a holds expertise in hearings and rules administration, litigation, caseload management, and currently works at the New Hampshire Department of Labor.

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From August 2014 to present Ms. Fuller worked at the New Hampshire Department of Labor as a hearings and rules administrator and hearings officer. She holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Suffolk University and a BA in Political Science degree from the University of Vermont.

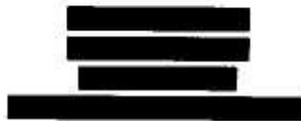
Ms. Fuller has accepted an appointment as a Senior Advisor of the Public Utilities Commission with a planned start date of July 28, 2023. As a classified state employee, she is a job class 31, step 6, with an annual salary of \$93,346.50. The Public Utilities Commission respectfully requests approval from the Governor and Council to compensate Sarah Fuller at step 3 of the salary grade GG, \$98,842 annually, the closest step on the GG scale to her current salary. This position is entirely funded through the utilities assessment established by RSA 363-A: 1.

Respectfully Submitted,



Daniel C. Goldner
Chairman
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission

SARAH FISHER FULLER



Professional Experience

New Hampshire Department of Labor, Concord, NH

Hearings & Rules Administrator

January 2019- Present

- Oversee the daily management of the Hearings Bureau. This involves managing an administrative hearings docket and staff to coordinate 1600 administrative hearings per year. Management includes case assignments, disbursement of work and review of work product.
- Review all substantive motions and author responsive pleadings.
- Conduct administrative pre-hearing and formal hearings.
- Manage a team of up to 10 employees. This includes day to day case assignment and hiring and termination decision for hearings bureau personnel.
- Coordinate and manage the Department's administrative rulemaking procedures. This includes working with all divisions at the Department of Labor to ensure that the Department's administrative rules are up to date and in compliance with ongoing legislation. Rulemaking includes, but is not limited to, submitting proposed rules to JLCAR for approval and working through the rule making procedures as outlined in RSA 541-A.
- Establish and review Hearings Bureau metric data and provide monthly reports to management.
- Coordinate and oversee trainings for both Department of Labor employees and the public on the administrative hearings process.

Hearing Officer

August 2014 – January 2019

- Conduct settlement conferences.
- Rule on motions and contested pre-trial issues.
- Conduct formal administrative hearings as an independent and impartial trier of fact.
- Review and evaluate evidence.
- Render concise decisions, weighing the relevance of testimony and addressing all issues within the statutory time frame.

New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Support Services, Concord, NH

Staff Attorney

November 2010 – August 2014

- Appear in the Circuit Court to represent the Department in child support related matters and meet with litigants to develop hearing strategy based on Department's needs and recommendations.
- Represent the Department at the Administrative Appeals Unit.
- Draft petitions, motions and other various pleadings.
- Advise and supervise other Department staff on legal issues related to the establishment and enforcement of child support orders and confidentiality of agency records.
- Assist with criminal non-support cases and present to Grand Jury regarding felony non-support.
- Perform legal research and assist with developing policies and procedures for the Department consistent with Federal and State regulations.
- Coordinate Appellate issues between the Department and the NH Attorney General Office.

LAW OFFICES OF FISHER & FULLER Dover, NH

November 2007- October 2010

Partner

Partner in a small litigation firm. Specializing in civil litigation, worker's compensation, probate law and family law.

- Manage all aspects of the litigation practice.
- Supervise administrative staff.
- Advise business clients on issues relating to employee relations, compliance with State regulations, and contract negotiations.
- Prepare and handle cases from intake to trial.

STOPA & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Foxboro, MA

March 2004 – Nov. 2007

Associate Counsel

Manage a diverse caseload in civil litigation, insurance defense, family law, employment and residential real estate for a small private legal practice. Prepare for weekly court appearances.

- Maintain a large volume of cases, including over two hundred insurance subrogation files.
- Compose opinion letters related to business client exposure.
- Conduct and defend depositions.
- Draft contracts, pleadings, and memorandum.
- Prepare all motions and other materials needed for trial.

Education

Suffolk University,	Boston, MA---	Juris Doctor	2003
University of Vermont,	Burlington, VT---	BA, Political Science	2000

Admissions and Memberships

Massachusetts Bar, 2003- Present

New Hampshire Bar, 2006- Present

Justice of the Peace- Commission Expires 02/20/2024