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**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JAMES T. BOFFETTI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

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October 4, 2023

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 reappoint Mary F. Stewart, Position #9U543, (Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2611-013-500132) as an Assistant Attorney General at a salary level of \$110,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval or October 20, 2023, whichever is later, for a term ending October 20, 2028.

EXPLANATION

Ms. Stewart, a resident of Bow, earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance and Management from Lehigh University in 1985, and her Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School in 1993. She alternated between private practice and judicial clerkships at the United States Bankruptcy Court over the course of her legal career. She clerked for the Hon. James Yacos from 1993 to 1995, operated her own law office from 1995 to 1997, and served as an Advocate at the Legal Advice and Referral Center from 1997 to 1998. She was associated with Feniger and Uliasz, PLLC, from 2004 to 2005 and Firstenberger and Stewart, PLLC, from 2004 to 2005. After a six-month temporary clerkship with the Hon. J. Michael Deasy in 2005, she resumed private practice as a solo practitioner from 2005 to 2018. Ms. Stewart also clerked for the Hon. Bruce Harwood from 2018 to 2021. She was a Member of the National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys from 2006 to 2018, the New Hampshire Pro Bono Advisory Board from 2011 to 2012, and the National Association of Consumer Advocates from 2014 to 2018. Ms. Stewart was honored with the Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award for Consumer Bankruptcy in 2010. She joined the Department in 2022 and was assigned to the Consumer Protection Bureau. I plan to continue her assignment there and her salary will remain the same. A copy of her resume is attached.

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RSA 21-M:3 and RSA 94:1-a 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 pleased to offer Ms. Stewart's reappointment as an Assistant Attorney General at the above-referenced salary for your approval and respectfully urge your favorable consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Formella
Attorney General

#4204607

Mary Frances Stewart

SUMMARY OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Engaged in the practice of law in New Hampshire from 1993 to present, primarily as a solo practitioner specializing in chapter 7 and chapter 13 consumer bankruptcy as well as consumer litigation with a focus on mortgage reporting litigation in bankruptcy court and foreclosure defense and debt collection defense in state courts. Practice in N.H. Federal District Court, N.H. Bankruptcy Court and N.H. Superior Courts. Engaged in all aspects of law office management including book-keeping and budgeting, technology selection, website design and maintenance and supervision of employees.

I have a solid understanding of the finance industry and financial products used in consumer and business lending. This knowledge has been important in my career as a bankruptcy lawyer and as background to understand mortgage products involved in foreclosure defense litigation.

I have worked for three bankruptcy judges throughout my career: the Honorable James E. Yacos, the Honorable J. Michael Deasy and the Honorable Bruce A. Harwood. My responsibilities included written review of pleadings for hearing preparation, legal research, drafting bench memos, orders and opinions for the court. Also assisted with mediation of bankruptcy court litigation. Through this work, I reviewed numerous pleadings and documents related to bankruptcy cases.

FULL-TIME LEGAL EXPERIENCE

N.H. Attorney General Office, Consumer Protection & Antitrust Bureau, April 2022 to present
The Honorable Bruce A. Harwood, Temporary Law Clerk, October 2018 to September 2021
Mary Stewart Law, PLLC, Owner July 2005 to October 2018
The Honorable J. Michael Deasy, Temporary Law Clerk, January 2005 to June 2005
Firstenberger & Stewart, PLLC, Associate, May 2004 to December 2005
Feniger & Uliasz, PLLC, Associate, June 1998 to September 1999
Legal Advice & Referral Center, Advocate, May 1997 to June 1998
Law Office of Mary Stewart, Owner, October 1995 to May 1997
The Honorable James E. Yacos, Law Clerk, September 1993 to September 1995

PART-TIME LEGAL EXPERIENCE

New Hampshire Technical Institute, Adjunct Professor, Paralegal Program, 2019 – 2020.
Taught 15-week Business Formation and Bankruptcy Course for spring semester.

NHBA, Foreclosure Relief Project, Contract Attorney 2013 to 2017
Contract attorney for N.H. Bar Association Foreclosure Relief Project. Responsibilities included program design, development of listserv, case review, consultation with attorneys regarding pending mortgage foreclosure cases and maintaining close collaboration with other legal services agencies.

EDUCATION

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT
Juris Doctorate 1993

Lehigh University, Bethlehem, PA
B.S. Finance and Management 1985

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Washington Center for Internships, Internship Program Director, 1987 to 1989
Managed Independent Sector Program placing college students in academic paid internships with not-for-profit organizations in Washington, D.C., supervised interns throughout semester, provided written updates to colleges and universities, designed and taught weekly class, assisted with fundraising.

Vision, Inc., Executive Recruiter, 1986 to 1987

E.F. Hutton & Company, Inc., Office Manager, 1985 to 1986

MEMBERSHIPS and HONORS

Granite State Senior Games, Member, Board of Directors, 2022 to present
National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, 2006 to 2018
American Bankruptcy Institute, 2009 to present
Distinguished Pro Bono Service – Consumer Bankruptcy 2010
NH Pro Bono Advisory Board, Member 2011 to 2012
National Association of Consumer Advocates, 2014 to 2018