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**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

1 GRANITE PLACE SOUTH  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

JOHN M. FORMELLA  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JAMES T. BOFFETTI  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

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December 6, 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 grant a salary increase to Sean R. Locke, as an Assistant Attorney General (Position Number 9U604, Appropriation No. 02-20-20-201010-2620-013-500132), from a salary level of \$95,000 to a salary level of \$98,000 upon Governor and Executive Council approval or December 29, 2023, whichever is later.

**EXPLANATION**

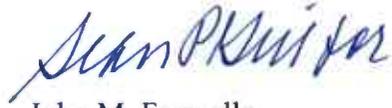
Mr. Locke is a resident of Concord. He received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in 2013. Mr. Locke served as a legal intern for the Disabilities Rights Center, in Concord, New Hampshire, from May 2011 through August 2011, the U.S. District Court, in Boston, Massachusetts, from January 2012 through May 2012, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Civil Division, in Boston, Massachusetts, from June 2012 through August 2012 and the Disability Law Center, in Boston, Massachusetts, from September 2013 through August 2014. He worked as a Law Clerk for New Hampshire Supreme Court Justice Gary Hicks from August 2014 through May 2015. Mr. Locke joined the Department of Justice in May 2015 as an attorney in the Criminal Bureau's Appeals Unit and was commissioned as an Assistant Attorney General in May 2016. He has led the Department's Civil Rights Unit since 2019. Mr. Locke was recently designated a Senior Assistant Attorney General. His salary will increase by \$3,000 from \$95,000 to \$98,000. I will continue his current assignment. His resume is attached for your review.

RSA 21-M:3 and RSA 94:1-a provide that the 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.

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and the Honorable Council  
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I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this request. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Formella".

John M. Formella  
Attorney General

#4287048

## EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2013

GPA: 3.66, Top 20% of Class

Honors: *Boston University Law Review* – Editor; Writing Fellow for the First Year Writing Program; Dean's Award in Torts

Activities: National First Amendment Moot Court Competition; Homer Albers Prize Moot Court Competition; Edward C. Stone Moot Court Competition; *Pro Bono* Spring Break (Spring 2013) – Mississippi Center for Justice, Biloxi, MS; OutLaw – President, 2011-2012; Student Advisor, 2011-2013

Tufts University, Medford, MA

Bachelor of Arts, History, May 2008

Awards: Pride on the Hill Award for leadership and academic achievement; Dean's List for three semesters

Activities: Studied Abroad 2006-2007 Academic Year at the University College of London; Co-President: Tufts LGBT-Ally Organization; University Admissions Tour Guide

## EXPERIENCE

New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, Concord, NH

May 2015 – Present

Attorney

May 2015 – May 2016

Assistant Attorney General

May 2016 – Present

- Drafting and filing briefs and memoranda of law with the New Hampshire Supreme Court in criminal appeals that covered a wide array of legal questions, such as constitutional law, criminal procedure, the rules of evidence, and statutory interpretation.
- Arguing criminal appeals before the New Hampshire Supreme Court in 3JX and full court oral arguments.
- Reviewing requests for appeals under RSA 606:10 from county attorneys and police prosecutors across the State and advising the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General on the best course of action.
- Reviewing requests for the State to sign *amicus curiae* briefs in criminal matters before the United States Supreme Court and advising the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General on the best course of action.
- Advising prosecutors in the Attorney General's Office, county attorneys' offices, and police departments across the State on legal questions that they may have.
- Assisting other appellate prosecutors with their briefs and arguments by reviewing work and participating in practice oral arguments.
- Assisting other attorneys and staff in the Attorney General's Office with major projects, such as monitoring polling places during state-wide elections and auditing state agencies.

New Hampshire Supreme Court, Chambers of Justice Gary Hicks, Concord, NH Aug. 2014 – May 2015

Law Clerk

- Collaborated with judges and other members of the court to produce final written opinions and orders that fully address disputes between parties and comport with New Hampshire and Federal law.
- Researched legal and policy issues in pending cases covering a wide array of legal areas, including criminal law, contracts, employment, municipal governance, administrative law, and constitutional law.
- Reviewed trial or administrative records and briefs filed by parties to prepare for oral arguments.
- Drafted and researched opinions for the court.
- Reviewed, edited, and revised opinions produced by co-clerks and interns.
- Supervised intern projects.

Disability Law Center, Boston, MA

Sept. 2013 – Aug. 2014

N. Neal Pike Disability Rights Fellow

- Managed a heavy case load of complex legal issues on behalf of clients with disabilities facing housing discrimination or discrimination in subsidized housing programs.
- Participated in all steps of the litigation process, including writing complaints, answers, motions, discovery, responding to discovery, participating in mediation sessions, and preparing for motion hearings and trials.
- Interviewed and prepared witnesses for evidentiary hearings and trials.
- Negotiated and wrote settlement agreements and resolutions of legal problems on behalf of clients.
- Communicated directly with clients, advocates, social workers, opposing parties, and opposing attorneys.
- Evaluated potential claims raised by clients for merit and set strategy for resolving legal issues with clients.
- Provided technical advice to practicing attorneys and advocates unfamiliar with disability rights legal issues.
- Conducted training sessions on subsidized housing programs and housing rights of people with disabilities for the legal staff in the office and community advocates.
- Revised and updated a chapter on fair housing laws regarding people with disabilities for a CLE treatise on

- Developed expertise in housing code, state and federal subsidized housing, and anti-discrimination regulations.  
U.S. Attorney's Office, Civil Division, Boston, MA June 2012 – Aug. 2012

*Legal Intern*

- Drafted motions, discovery requests, and other court filings on behalf of the United States.
- Researched and wrote memoranda covering a wide range of substantive legal issues, including asset forfeiture, civil rights, property law, torts, and civil procedure.
- Participated in trial and hearing preparation efforts, including witness interviews and drafting correspondence.
- Conducted fieldwork for preliminary civil rights investigations.

U.S. District Court, Chambers of Judge Denise Casper, Boston, MA

Jan. 2012 – May 2012

*Judicial Intern*

- Drafted an opinion in favor of the government in a Social Security benefits appeal.
- Drafted a summary judgment order in a contract and indemnification dispute.
- Researched and wrote memoranda in anticipation of upcoming judicial proceedings, including administrative appeals, civil penalty orders, and *Markman* patent claim evaluations.
- Assisted the judge in preparing for motion hearings.

New Hampshire Disabilities Rights Center, Concord, NH

May 2011 – Aug. 2011

*Legal Intern*

- Researched and drafted memoranda on matters including civil rights, employment, and administrative law.
- Researched and drafted materials to be used in pleadings and briefs.
- Drafted administrative complaints and correspondence on behalf of clients.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- Richard M. Glassman & Sean R. Locke, Housing Rights, in Legal Rights of Individuals with Disabilities 2-i, 2-i (Stanley J. Eichner, Richard M. Glassman, & Christine M. Griffin eds., 2d ed. 2015)

**MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSES**

- New Hampshire Bar Association, Active Status Member Nov. 2013 – Present
- U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire, Admitted to Practice Nov. 2013 – Present
- Massachusetts Bar Association, Inactive Status Member Nov. 2013 – Present
- Daniel Webster-Batchelder American Inn of Court, Member Sept. 2015 – Present