

yf

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

1 GRANITE PLACE SOUTH
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JAMES T. BOFFETTI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

121

May 15, 2024

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, Assistant Attorney General Position # 9U604 (Appropriation # 02-20-20-201010-2620-013-500132) in the amount of \$5,000, from a salary level of \$98,000 to a salary level of \$103,000, upon Governor and Executive Council approval or May 31, 2024, 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 designated a Senior Assistant Attorney General. His salary will increase by \$5,000 from \$98,000 to \$103,000, to reflect the extra supervisory responsibilities he assumed over new attorney and law enforcement investigator positions added to the Civil Rights Unit this year. 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

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council

May 15, 2024

Page 2 of 2

General, subject to approval of the Governor and Council, within appropriations made to the Department.

I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of this request. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Formella
Attorney General

#4495009

Sean R. Locke, Esq.

N.H. Department of Justice • 1 Granite Place--South • Concord, NH 03301 • (603) 271-3650 •
sean.r.locke@doj.nh.gov

EDUCATION

Boston University School of Law, Boston, MA

Juris Doctor, *cum laude*, May 2013

Honors: *Boston University Law Review* – Editor; Writing Fellow for the First Year Writing Program; Dean’s Award in Torts; Judicial Extern for Hon. Denise J. Casper, U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts

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

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

University College of London, London, UK

Full-time student with Tufts-in-London Program, Sept. 2006 – May 2007

EXPERIENCE

New Hampshire Attorney General’s Office, Concord, NH

May 2015 – Present

Senior Assistant Attorney General; Director, Civil Rights Unit

Dec. 2023 – Present

Assistant Attorney General; Director, Civil Rights Unit

Dec. 2019 – Dec. 2023

- Managing attorneys and staff as the Civil Rights Unit investigates and analyzes complaints under the Civil Rights Act and anti-discrimination laws.
- Brining enforcement actions to under the Civil Rights Act and anti-discrimination laws.
- Educating law enforcement, community organizations, and the public on hate crimes and the Civil Rights Act.
- Advising attorneys throughout the office on civil rights-related matters that may arise in their practice.
- Serving on and advising the Governor’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion, including drafting the Council’s annual reports and letters, and coordinating its efforts and activities.
- Defending the State’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic by working to defend multiple challenges to the COVID-19 state of emergency and the Governor’s various emergency orders.
- Testifying before the New Hampshire House and Senate on dozens of pieces of legislation related to civil rights, criminal law, and other areas of interest to the Attorney General.
- Providing legal counsel to the Commission for Human Rights, the state agency charged with investigating and adjudicating all allegations of violations of the state’s law against discrimination.

Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Justice Bureau

May 2016 – Dec. 2019

Attorney, Criminal Justice Bureau

May 2015 – May 2016

- Drafted and filed briefs and memoranda of law with the New Hampshire Supreme Court in over 80 criminal appeals that covered, among other matters, constitutional law, evidence, and statutory interpretation.
- Presented oral argument in over 60 criminal appeals before the New Hampshire Supreme Court.
- Reviewed requests for appeals under RSA 606:10 from county attorneys and police prosecutors across the State and advising the Attorney General and Solicitor General on the best course of action.
- Reviewed *amicus curiae* requests for the State to sign in matters before the United States Supreme Court.
- Advised prosecutors in the across the State on criminal law and produced guidance on developing issues in criminal law, such as search and seizure practices and traffic stops.
- Represented the State’s interest in state and federal habeas corpus proceedings.
- Trained county attorneys and district court prosecutors on trial advocacy skills and issues that can arise in appellate litigation.
- Tried criminal offenses before a jury and participated in Grand Jury investigations.

Franklin Pierce School of Law, University of New Hampshire, Concord, NH

Dec. 2022 – Present

Adjunct Professor

- Mentoring and supervising 15-20 students each semester participating in the law school’s legal residency program.
- Facilitating discussions with students on issues ranging from lawyer well-being to implicit bias and cultural humility.
- Reviewing, grading, and providing feedback on written assignments produced by the law students.

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, constitutional law, with many of these cases addressing novel issues not yet considered by the Court in the past.
- Drafted and researched opinions for the court.
- Managed the assignments of cases among clerks and interns, including reviewing colleague’s work and making sure cases moved through the drafting and editing process in an efficient manner.

Disability Law Center, Boston, MA

Sept. 2013 – Aug. 2014

N. Neal Pike Disability Rights Fellow

- Managed a heavy case load that included complex 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 in district court, housing court, and before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.
- Interviewed and prepared witnesses for evidentiary hearings and trials.
- Negotiated and wrote settlement agreements and resolutions of legal problems on behalf of clients.
- Provided technical advice to practicing attorneys and advocates unfamiliar with disability rights legal issues.
- Provided guidance to litigants the office was unable to represent on the legal process and how to successfully proceed as a self-represented party.
- Conducted training sessions on subsidized housing programs and housing rights of people with disabilities for the legal staff in the office and community advocates outside of the office.
- Revised and updated a chapter on fair housing laws regarding people with disabilities for a CLE treatise on individual rights of people with disabilities.

PUBLICATIONS & TRAININGS

- Wrote chapters on Implicit Bias; Hate-Crimes, Civil Rights Violations and Hate-Motivated Incidents; and the Rights of Crime Victims and Advocacy for the Law Enforcement Manual
- Revised chapters on the Law of Warrantless Searches and the Law Regarding On-The-Street Encounters and Investigative Detentions
- Presented at 2019 Appellate Advocacy CLE hosted by the New Hampshire Bar Association
- 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)

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 2015 U.S. Office of Personnel Management’s Presidential Management Fellowship Program Finalist

MEMBERSHIPS & LICENSES

- **New Hampshire Bar Assoc., Active Status Member** Nov. 2013 – Present
- **U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire, Admitted to Practice** Nov. 2013 – Present
- **Massachusetts Bar Assoc., Inactive Status Member** Nov. 2013 – Present
- **Daniel Webster-Batchelder American Inn of Court, Member** Sept. 2015 – Present
 - **Co-Chair of Diversity Committee** Sept. 2023 - Present
- **New Hampshire Bar Assoc., Committee on Cooperation with the Courts** Sept. 2016 – June 2019
- **New Hampshire Bar Assoc., Legislative Committee** Jan. 2020 – Present
- **Governor’s Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion** Dec. 2019 – Present
 - **Secretary** Dec. 2019 – Present
- **New Hampshire Courts’ Advisory Board for Diversity and Inclusion** June 2022 – Present