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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

4D

March 10, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte  
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 appoint Peter M. MacKenna, Position #9U487 (Appropriation #02-20-20-201010-2620-013-500132), as an Assistant Attorney General at a salary level of \$89,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval or April 4, 2025, whichever is later, for a term ending February 3, 2029.

**EXPLANATION**

Mr. MacKenna, a Laconia resident, earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Wheaton College in 2012, and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center in 2017. During law school, he was Managing Editor of the *American Criminal Law Review – Annual Survey of White Collar Crime*, Best Oral Advocate in the 2015 Leahy Moot Court Competition, Legal Intern at the Federal Public Defender for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Student Attorney with the Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic. Following law school graduation and admission to the New Hampshire Bar, Mr. MacKenna practiced as a Staff Attorney with the New Hampshire Public Defender Program from 2017 to 2021. In 2021, he was hired as an Attorney at the New Hampshire Department of Labor. He joined the Department of Justice in 2024 and was assigned to the Civil Law Bureau, where he focuses on civil rights enforcement and assists with civil litigation. I plan to continue his current assignment. His salary will increase by \$3,000 from \$86,000 to \$89,000. A copy of his resume is attached.

RSA 21-M:3 and RSA 94:1-a(I)(c)(3) 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 of Justice.

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte

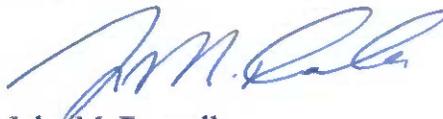
and the Honorable Council

March 10, 2025

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I am very pleased to offer Mr. MacKenna's appointment as an Assistant Attorney General at the above-referenced salary for your approval and respectfully urge your favorable consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.M. Formella", written in a cursive style.

John M. Formella  
Attorney General

#4919169

## Peter M. MacKenna

### EDUCATION

**Georgetown University Law Center**

Washington, D.C.

*Juris Doctor*

May 2017

Activities: Barristers' Council – Appellate Advocacy Division, Member; Employment Justice Center Legal Clinic, Intake Volunteer

Journal: American Criminal Law Review, Managing Editor – Annual Survey of White Collar Crime

Awards: Best Oral Advocate – Leahy Moot Court Competition 2015; Dean's List, 2015-2016 Academic Year

**Wheaton College**

Norton, MA

*Bachelor of Arts* in Philosophy

May 2012

Activities: Wheaton Student Government Association, Senator; One Hundred and One Ideas Taskforce, Chair; Career Advisory Committee, Chair; Senate Finance Committee, Member; Greener Initiatives Committee, Member; Treasurer's Advisory Council, Member

### EXPERIENCE

**New Hampshire Department of Justice**

Concord, NH

ATTORNEY

April 2024-Present

- Draft and file complaints and requests for injunctions for violations of the New Hampshire Civil Rights laws.
- Present offers of proof, examine witnesses, and argue closings at final hearings in Civil Rights cases.
- Research, write, and argue evidentiary, dispositive, and discovery motions on behalf of the State in civil cases.
- Conduct depositions, exchange discovery, and prepare witnesses in preparation for civil cases against the State.
- Defend termination of parental rights and abuse/neglect orders appealed to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

**New Hampshire Department of Labor**

Concord, NH

ATTORNEY III

March 2022-Present

- Presented offers of proof, examined witnesses, and argued closings at various administrative hearings.
- Negotiated resolutions to wage and hour, workers' compensation insurance, and first report of injury cases.
- Coordinated with Department investigators to prepare wage and hour cases for petition and hearing.
- Conducted presentations and trainings on NH labor laws, Department procedures, and investigation skills.
- Interpreted statutes and provide legal analysis to the Department to aid it in the administration of its mission.

ATTORNEY II

July 2021-March 2022

- Presented offers of proof, examined witnesses, and argued closings at various administrative hearings.
- Negotiated resolutions to wage and hour, workers' compensation insurance, and first report of injury cases.
- Coordinated with Department investigators to prepare wage and hour cases for petition and hearing.
- Monitored all proposed NH legislation for relevant bills, providing Department feedback to legislators as needed.

**New Hampshire Public Defender**

Laconia, NH

STAFF ATTORNEY

August 2017-June 2021

- Represented indigent criminal defendants at numerous contested hearings in both Superior and District Court.
- Researched and wrote motions challenging the inclusion of evidence and witnesses, as well as motions to dismiss.
- Negotiated plea resolutions with state prosecutors and advised clients on accepting pleas verses going to trial.
- Mentored and supervised new attorneys to ensure the quality of their work and to provide day-to-day guidance.

**Criminal Defense and Prisoner Advocacy Clinic**

Washington, D.C.

STUDENT ATTORNEY

August 2016-May 2017

- Argued probable cause and bail at arraignment on behalf of indigent misdemeanor clients in D.C. Superior Court.
- Conducted investigations, including interviewing witnesses, in anticipation of trial.
- Assisted returning prisoners with re-entry by helping them find employment, housing, counseling, etc.

**Federal Public Defender – Eastern District of Virginia**

Alexandria, VA

LEGAL INTERN

May 2016-August 2016

- Drafted motions challenging the legality of police searches and seizures during traffic stops and roadblocks.
- Researched and wrote memos regarding federal bribery laws to assist attorneys with case preparation.