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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

4E

June 9, 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 Shawna Bentley, Position #9U375 (Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2620-013-500132), as an Assistant Attorney General, at a salary level of \$91,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval or June 27, 2025, whichever is later, for a term ending August 31, 2029.

**EXPLANATION**

Ms. Bentley, a Belmont resident, earned her Bachelor of Arts with majors in English Language and Literature and English Education, *summa cum laude*, from Southern New Hampshire University in 2013. Following graduation, she completed long-term substitute teaching placements at Concord High School and served as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Assistant Site Coordinator at Rundlett Middle School. She enrolled in the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law in 2015 where she was Networking Director of the Women's Law Student Association, a Teacher's Assistant for Legal Research and Information Literacy, and a Daniel Webster Scholar. After graduating law school and being admitted to the New Hampshire Bar in 2018, she joined Wescott Law, PA, in Laconia, as an Associate; her practice included civil litigation, landlord/tenant law, family law, personal injury, and estate planning. In addition to her law practice, Ms. Bentley taught at the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law as a Professor of Legal Research and Information Technology (2021 – 2022) and Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research (currently). She has been active in the community as Treasurer of the Belknap County Bar Association, Secretary of the Belknap Mill Board of Directors, Leadership Academy Director for Girls Incorporated of New Hampshire, and a United Way Volunteer. Ms. Bentley joined the Department in 2024 and was assigned to the Civil Bureau's Civil Litigation Unit. I plan to continue her current assignment. Her salary will increase by \$3,000 from \$88,000 to \$91,000. A copy of her resume is attached.

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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.

I am very pleased to offer Ms. Bentley'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,



John M. Formella  
Attorney General

#5065634

## Shawna Bentley

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### Education

- University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law, Concord NH** **J.D. 2018**
- Daniel Webster Scholar Honors Program
  - GPA: 3.39
  - Teacher's Assistant - Legal Research and Information Literacy (two semesters)
  - Networking Director of the Women's Law Student Association
- Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester NH** **B.A. 2013**
- Double Major in English Language and Literature and English Education
  - GPA: 3.8, *Summa Cum Laude, Pi Lambda Theta Education Honor Society*
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### Employment

- Attorney** **2024 - Present**
- New Hampshire Department of Justice – Civil Bureau, Concord NH
- Represent the State of New Hampshire, its agencies, and its employees, in various civil actions filed in state and federal court and in the New Hampshire Supreme Court
  - Represent clients through written and oral advocacy in all stages of litigation—draft answers and motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, various trial motions, argue dispositive motions, attend depositions, engage in settlement negotiations, and draft supreme court appeal documents
- Associate Attorney, Wescott Law, PA, Laconia NH** **2018 – 2024**
- Lead Associate – Wescott Law** **2021 – 2024**
- Represented associations, municipalities, businesses, and individuals in various civil litigation matters in a variety of jurisdictions, including New Hampshire District, Family, Probate, Superior, and Supreme Courts, the US District Court for the District of New Hampshire, and various Zoning Boards
  - Developed own book of business, practicing primarily civil litigation, landlord/tenant law, family law, personal injury, and estate planning
  - Developed appellate practice, handling appeals for various attorneys throughout firm
  - Represented clients from initial consult to close of representation, serving as main point of contact for client throughout process
  - Reviewed and approve client invoices, monitored client accounts receivable and trust fund balances, addressed collection issues as needed
  - Mentored various junior associates, met regularly regarding cases, provided feedback and direction regarding client interactions and legal strategy, writing, and research
  - Drafted and proofed marketing media, developed and implemented marketing strategies in coordination with outside marketing consultant
- Personnel Liaison to Directors – Wescott Law** **2021 - 2024**
- Onboarded new attorneys, legal interns, and staff, processed new-hire paperwork, coordinated IT setup, payroll, and benefits

- Directly supervised receptionists, legal interns, and law clerks, coordinated and led regular staff meetings, conducted staff performance reviews
- Developed personnel policies, reference documents, employee handbook, and training curricula for various new hires
- Recruited associate attorneys, law clerks, and staff

**Associate Attorney – Wescott Law**  
**Law Clerk – Wescott Law**

**November 2018 – 2021**  
**January 2018 – June 2018**

**Professor of Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research** **August 2024 – December 2024**  
 University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law – Concord NH

- Taught first-year law students fundamentals of legal analysis, writing, and research
- Instructed students on strategies for effective legal writing, from grammar and structure to substance and analysis
- Trained students to effectively utilize various features of Lexis and Westlaw
- Discussed research strategies across various print and online sources
- Supervised and coordinated with teaching assistant to support student learning

**Professor of Legal Research and Information Literacy** **Fall 2021, Fall 2022**  
 University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law – Concord NH

**Judicial Intern** (Hon. Edward M. Gordon) **August - December 2017**  
 Franklin Circuit Court – Family Division, Franklin NH

**Judicial Intern** (Hon. James D. O’Neill, III) **May 2017- August 2017**  
 Belknap County Superior Court, Laconia NH

**Legal Intern** **May 2016- October 2017**  
 National Education Association of New Hampshire, Concord NH

**English Teacher (Various Long-Term Substitute Placements)** **December 2013- June 2015**  
 Concord High School, Concord NH

- Taught Advanced Writing, Argumentative Writing, Media Literacy, American Literature, World Literature, and Fiction

**21st Century Assistant Site Coordinator** **September 2014- June 2015**  
 Rundlett Middle School, Concord NH

- Worked closely with administration to enforce program behavior policies and routines
- Supervised and evaluated performance of club instructors on a daily basis

**Leadership Academy Director** **June 2013- August 2015**  
 Girls Incorporated of New Hampshire, Manchester NH

- Designed and implemented curriculum to develop leadership skills in girls ages 10-16