

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOHN M. FORMELLA
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JAMES T. BOFFETTI
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 3, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
And the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

That approval be and hereby is given to the Attorney General to reappoint Geoffrey W. R. Ward, Position #9U054 (Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2610-013-500132), as an Assistant Attorney General at a salary level of \$112,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval, or August 20, 2022, whichever is later, for a term ending August 20, 2027.

EXPLANATION

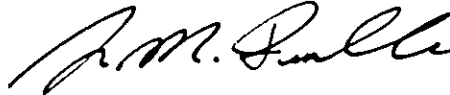
Mr. Ward, a Durham resident, received his Bachelor of Arts from Colby College in 2002, and his Juris Doctor from Franklin Pierce Law Center (now University of New Hampshire School of Law) in 2007. In law school, he was a Teaching Assistant in Criminal Law (2006), Regional Finalist in the National Trial Competition (2007), and Nedved Award recipient for most outstanding Advanced Trial Advocacy advocate in the class (2007). Following his 2007 admission to the New Hampshire Bar, he served five years as an Assistant County Attorney in Rockingham County. From 2011 to 2013, he also served as an Adjunct Professor at University of New Hampshire School of Law where he taught Advanced Trial Advocacy. Mr. Ward joined the Department in 2012 and was assigned to the Criminal Justice Bureau. He was commissioned as an Assistant Attorney General in 2013, designated Senior Assistant Attorney General in 2017, and named Criminal Justice Bureau Chief in 2018. This reappointment will give him a full five-year term. He will continue serving in his current assignment and his salary will remain the same. His resume is attached.

RSA 94:1-a(1)(c)(3) provides 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.

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I am very pleased to offer Mr. Ward'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,

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

John M. Formella
Attorney General

#3633503

GEOFFREY W.R. WARD, ESQUIRE

Admitted to the New Hampshire Bar: 2007

Admitted to the USDC, District of New Hampshire Bar: 2008

Education:

- 2004 – 2007 Franklin Pierce Law Center (now University of New Hampshire School of Law), Concord, New Hampshire
Juris Doctor
- Recipient of the Nedved Award for the most outstanding Advanced Trial Advocacy advocate in the class of 2007
 - National Trial Competition: Regional Competition Finalist, February 2007
 - Teaching Assistant – Criminal Law: Professor Charles Temple, Fall 2006
- 1998 – 2002 Colby College, Waterville, Maine
Bachelor of Arts, Government
- Managing Editor; Opinions Editor: *Colby Echo*, Colby College Newspaper

Professional Positions:

- 9/5/18 – present *Chief, Criminal Justice Bureau*
- 1/19/18 – 9/5/18 *Chief, Public Integrity & Special Investigations Unit*
- 2017 – present *Senior Assistant Attorney General*
- 2012 – 2017 *Assistant Attorney General*
- New Hampshire Office of the Attorney General, Concord, New Hampshire**
- Supervise and manage the attorneys, investigators, victim/witness advocates and support staff of the Criminal Justice Bureau, which includes the Homicide Unit, Cold Case Homicide Unit, Drug Prosecution Unit, Public Integrity Unit, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and the Criminal Appeals Unit as well as the Office of Victim/Witness Assistance, the statewide training prosecutor, the Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor, and the Employment Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.
 - Investigate and prosecute homicides, public integrity crimes, white-collar crimes, instances of excessive force by law enforcement, as well crimes that have a corrosive or harmful effect on public confidence in our government and other trusted institutions, both public and private; crimes committed by public and private entities or those acting on behalf of such entities, and which result in harm to children; and crimes involving kidnapped, abducted, and missing children.
 - Investigate fatal officer-involved shootings and use of force incidents.
 - Write briefs for criminal appeals to the New Hampshire Supreme Court and argue criminal appeals before the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

- Support and advise New Hampshire's ten county attorneys on matters concerning their criminal prosecution function. Investigate allegations that county prosecutors have abused their prosecutorial discretion.
- Manage the statewide Exculpatory Evidence Schedule (EES) for the State of New Hampshire concerning the disclosure of potentially exculpatory evidence pursuant to *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83 (1963) and *State v. Laurie*, 139 N.H. 325 (1995) and the Attorney General's Exculpatory Evidence Protocol.
- Present at trainings for law enforcement and allied professionals.

2007 – 2012

Assistant County Attorney

Rockingham County Attorney's Office, Brentwood, New Hampshire

- Prosecuted over 500 cases consisting of felony and misdemeanor offenses in the Superior Court and District Courts of the county.
- Tried thirty-five jury trials in Superior Court as well as several District Court bench trials.
- Aided law enforcement investigation through working as the on-call attorney, appearing at forensic interviews, and investigative grand juries.

Academic Appointments:

2011 – 2013

Adjunct Professor

University of New Hampshire School of Law, Concord, New Hampshire

- Taught Advanced Trial Advocacy, a three-credit course.
- Course focused on student participation in the American Association for Justice (AAJ) National Student Trial Advocacy Competition.
- Instructed students on all phases of trial advocacy in preparation for trial competition, including opening statements and closing argument, direct and cross-examination of witnesses (including expert witnesses), and trial objections.

Commissions/Appointments:

2021 – present

Attorney General's Designee, *RSA 188-H:5 Task Force on Sexual Misconduct at Institutions of Higher Education*

2019 – 2020

Chair/Attorney General's Designee, *Governor's Drug Overdose Fatality Review Committee*

2017

Member, New Hampshire Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules, *Subcommittee on Procedures for In Camera Review of Confidential Records*

2017

Member, New Hampshire Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules, *Subcommittee on Procedures for Filing Sealed Documents and Pleadings with the Court*