

ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

GORDON J. MACDONALD
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 30, 2020

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 appoint Joseph A. Cherniske, Position #9U648 (Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2610-013-500132) as an Attorney at a salary level of \$80,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval or May 22, 2020, whichever is later.

EXPLANATION

Mr. Cherniske, a Henniker resident, graduated *cum laude* from the University of Connecticut in 2004, with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology. Between 2005 and 2007, he counseled delinquent youth at a residential treatment facility in Litchfield, Connecticut. While studying at the University of New Hampshire, School of Law, he was selected as a Teaching Assistant, Moot Court Board member, and Advanced Trial Advocacy team member. He graduated *cum laude* with his Juris Doctor in 2010, and was admitted to the New Hampshire Bar the same year. Mr. Cherniske was an Assistant County Attorney at the Merrimack County Attorney's Office from 2010 to 2020, where he prosecuted complex felony criminal matters and conducted more than 60 jury trials. He volunteers his services as a member of the Sexual Assault and Nurse Examiner Advisory Board, United Way Merrimack County Community Impact Committee, and Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect. In light of Mr. Cherniske's experience, I am requesting he be appointed as an Attorney at a salary of \$80,000. He will be assigned to the Criminal Bureau as a trial attorney. A copy of his resume is attached.

RSA 94:1-a(I)(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,

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

I am very pleased to offer Mr. Cherniske's appointment as an Attorney 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 'Gordon J. MacDonald', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gordon J. MacDonald
Attorney General

#2725456

Joseph A. Cherniske

Admitted to practice in New Hampshire since October 2010

EDUCATION

University of New Hampshire School of Law, Concord, NH

Degree: Juris Doctor, May 2010

GPA: 3.50/4.00

Degree Honors: Cum Laude, Class Rank: Top 20%

Awards and Activities:

- o Moot Court Board, 2009-2010; Advanced Trial Advocacy Team 2009-2010; Criminal Procedure Moot Court Competition 2008-2009; Teaching Assistant, Fundamentals of Law, Spring 2009 and 2010; Teaching Assistant, Criminal Law, Fall 2009

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

Degree: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology and Individualized Major in Criminal Justice, December 2004

Degree Honors: Cum Laude

EXPERIENCE

Merrimack County Attorney's Office

4 Court Street | Concord, NH 03301

Position: Assistant County Attorney, full time

October 2010 – Present

Position: Rule 36 Student Attorney, part time

May – November 2009

Primary Responsibilities:

- o Litigate complex felony criminal matters, including physical and sexual assaults, thefts, and drug offenses, from indictment through trial.
- o Prosecuted over 60 jury trials.
- o Provide guidance and instruction to law enforcement throughout Merrimack County.
- o Collaborate with the Merrimack County Child Advocacy Center to ensure safety and justice for child victims of assault.

New Hampshire Superior Court, Belknap County

64 Court St # 5 | Laconia, NH 03246

Position: Law Clerk Intern, part time

Spring 2010

Primary Responsibilities:

- o Assisted judges with research and writing for court orders.
- o Provided quick research for complex issues arising during judicial proceedings.

Criminal Practice Clinic, University of New Hampshire

2 White Street | Concord, NH 03301

Position: Rule 36 Student Attorney, part time

Spring 2009

Primary Responsibilities:

- o Represented clients for various misdemeanor level offenses.
- o Drafted court pleadings and motions.

New Hampshire Public Defender
10 Ferry Street # 202 | Concord, NH 03301
Position: Investigator Intern, part time
Primary Responsibilities:

Summer 2009

- o Assisted investigators with witness interviews and reports in juvenile, misdemeanor, and felony cases.

Connecticut Junior Republic
550 Goshen Road | Litchfield, CT 06759
Position: Youth Counselor III, full time
Primary Responsibilities:

May 2005 – August 2007

- o Provided support in individual and group settings to delinquent youth at a residential facility.

TRAININGS AND JOB RELATED COURSES

- o Presenter, 2019 Partnering for a Future without Violence Conference - Have you Ever Experienced That Sinking Feeling When Media Start Asking Questions About Your Case?
- o Attendee, 2014 - 2019 Partnering for a Future without Violence Conference.
- o Attendee, 2017 Stalking: Nowhere to Hide, Domestic Violence Conference.
- o Attendee, 2016 Trial in the Digital Age: Understanding the Role of Technological Evidence to Prove your Child Abuse Case Conference.
- o Attendee, 2015 National Cyber Crime Conference.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND OTHER VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

- o Board Member, Sexual Assault and Nurse Examiner Advisory Board.
- o Board Member, United Way, Merrimack County Community Impact Committee.
- o Member, The Attorney General's Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect.
- o Volunteer, University of New Hampshire School of Law.