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**ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET  
 CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

GORDON J. MACDONALD  
 ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG  
 DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

December 19, 2019

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**

1. That approval be and hereby is given to the Attorney General to grant a salary increase to Susan G. Morrell, as an Assistant Attorney General (Position #9U499, Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2610-013-500132) from a salary level of \$99,845.25 to a salary level of \$106,000 retroactive to July 1, 2019 upon Governor and Executive Council approval.
2. Upon approval of Requested Action #1 above, it is further requested that approval be granted and hereby is given to the Attorney General to reappoint Susan G. Morrell, as an Assistant Attorney General (Position #9U499, Appropriation #02-20-20-200510-2610-013-500132) at a salary level of \$106,000, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval or January 17, 2020, whichever is later, for a term ending October 27, 2024.

**EXPLANATION**

In accordance with the 2001 N.H. Laws Chapter 158, Section 101, and 2018 N.H. Laws Chapter 162, Section 14, this request seeks your approval to grant a salary increase for Assistant Attorney General Susan G. Morrell. **Requested Action #1** of this item is **retroactive** because funds in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 biennium budget were not available to submit this request prior to July 1, 2019.

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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**Requested Action #2** seeks authorization to reappoint Susan G. Morrell as an Assistant Attorney General, effective upon Governor and Executive Council approval, or January 17, 2020, whichever is later, for a term ending October 27, 2024.

Ms. Morrell lives in Portsmouth. She received her law degree from Franklin Pierce Law Center (now UNH School of Law) in 1984. Ms. Morrell was an attorney for the City of Keene from 1984 through 1987. She was an attorney for the Strafford County Attorney's Office from 1987 through 1990. Ms. Morrell joined the Department of Justice as an Assistant Attorney General from 1990 through 1995. She left the office and became an attorney for Shaheen & Gordon P.A. from 1995 through 1996. Ms. Morrell returned as an attorney to the Strafford County Attorney's Office from 1996 through 1999. She resumed her duties at the Department of Justice in 1999 as an Assistant Attorney General in the Criminal Bureau. Ms. Morrell was designated a Senior Assistant Attorney General in 2009. Her salary will increase by \$6,155, from \$99,845.25 to \$106,000. I plan to continue her assignment in the Criminal Bureau.

I am very pleased to offer Ms. Morrell for reappointment as an Assistant Attorney General at the above-referenced salary for your approval. I respectfully urge your favorable consideration. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Gordon J. MacDonald  
Attorney General

#2575095

**SUSAN G. MORRELL, ESQUIRE**

**EDUCATION**

**FRANKLIN PIERCE LAW CENTER**, (now UNH School of Law) Concord, New Hampshire.

Juris Doctor. May, 1984.

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**, Exeter, England.

Summer Law Program sponsored by Marshall-Wythe School of Law, emphasis in International Law. August, 1982.

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE at ORONO**, Orono, Maine.

B.A., Political Science. May, 1981.

**LEGAL EXPERIENCE**

**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Criminal Bureau

Concord, New Hampshire. April, 1999 - Present.

*Senior Assistant Attorney General*

Homicide Unit: Lead counsel on First and Second Degree Murder trials throughout the State. This position also requires on-call duty to respond to and oversee investigations of homicides throughout the State, handle all press statements at the scene and throughout the prosecution, and consult on arrest decisions with the Attorney General. I also represent the State on appeals to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.  
2007-Present.<sup>1</sup>

Cold Case Unit: I supervise the investigation and prosecution of the State's Cold Case Homicides, working in conjunction with the New Hampshire State Police Cold Case Unit and Detectives from the major cities in the State who investigate homicides in their jurisdictions. I was assigned to this Unit as the only attorney in 2016, in addition to my duties outlined above. My on-call homicide duties were suspended in 2018, however, they were recently re-instated due to the number of homicides in the State this year.

Drug Unit. Responsible for overseeing investigations and conducting prosecutions of major drug traffickers. Also conducted civil litigation of drug asset forfeitures, as well as appellate advocacy. Assigned as the office contact for Homeland Security and Gang Activity. 1999-2007.

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<sup>1</sup> A list of the most recent cases I have tried is available upon request.

*Special Assistant United States Attorney*

Cross-designated to participate in investigations of interstate drug traffickers and their subsequent prosecution in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire.

June, 2000 - 2005.

**STRAFFORD COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Dover, New Hampshire. August, 1996 - April, 1999.

*Assistant County Attorney*

Full-time with a full felony caseload, emphasis on felony domestic violence related offenses. July, 1997 - April, 1999.

Hired to work part-time as the Rochester District Court Prosecutor for several contracting towns in the District. August, 1996 - July, 1997.

**SHAHEEN & GORDON, P.A.**

Concord and Dover, New Hampshire. November, 1995 - March, 1996.

*Independent Contractor*

Hired for temporary, part-time legal work. Assisted in the review of corporate records in preparation for the production of discovery in a multiple district litigation case.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Concord, New Hampshire. April, 1990 - June, 1995.

*Assistant Attorney General*

*Chief, Drug Prosecution and Asset Forfeiture Section*

Responsible for overseeing investigation and prosecution of major drug traffickers and litigation of all drug asset forfeitures. Supervision of two Assistant Attorneys General and support staff. Continued involvement in related legislative matters and appellate issues.

Coordination of training programs for state and local police and drug prosecutors.

August, 1993 - June, 1995.

*Asset Forfeiture Director*

Responsible for all Drug Asset Forfeiture litigation in New Hampshire. Author of HB693 – Amendments to Forfeiture Statute. Supervision of two paralegals and a financial analyst. Prepared briefs and conducted oral argument in criminal appeals before the New Hampshire Supreme Court. April, 1990 - August, 1993.

*Special Assistant United States Attorney*

Cross-designated to participate in investigations of interstate drug traffickers and their subsequent prosecution in the United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire.

1993-1995.

**STRAFFORD COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Dover, New Hampshire. September, 1987 – April, 1990.

*Deputy County Attorney*

Felony caseload, primarily child sexual assault prosecutions and drug prosecutions.  
Shared responsibility for the supervision of two Assistant County Attorneys.

#### **CITY OF KEENE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Keene, New Hampshire. December, 1984 - August, 1987.

##### *Acting City Attorney*

Responsible for all legal work generated by the City Council, the Planning Board, the Zoning Board, and all City Departments. May, 1987 - August, 1987.

##### *Assistant City Attorney*

City Prosecutor, Small Claims Collections, and Municipal Law

December, 1984 - August, 1987.

#### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES**

New Hampshire Bar Association

Admitted, October, 1984. Bar #1802.

Criminal Jury Instruction Committee, Member, 1999 to 2006.

NH Bar Foundation Fellow, 2019

United States District Court, District of New Hampshire

Admitted, November, 1984.

New Hampshire Women's Bar Association

Member, 2009-2013

Programming Committee Member, 2011-2013.

Attorney General's Designee:

Governor's Commission on the Humane Treatment of Animals, 2004-2014.

NH Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council, 2004-2009.

##### Lecturer:

New Hampshire Bar Association: Handling the Media, May, 2017.

New Hampshire Women's Bar Association: Crawford Issues and Expert Testimony, March, 2013.

New Hampshire Attorney General's Domestic Violence Conference: Ethics, 2014; Miranda, 2013; Ethics, 2013.

Criminal Bureau Homicide Unit Retreat: Miranda, 2013; Access to medical records, 2010; Prosecution of Shaken Baby Cases, 2009.

New Hampshire Attorney General's Prosecution Seminar, Trial Exhibits, April, 2004.

New Hampshire Attorney General's Drug Prosecutor's Symposium

Coordinator, January, 1994.

NH Police Standards and Training Council: "Basic Drug School," "Drug Tactical School," "Asset Forfeiture Training," and "General Criminal Statutes." 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1995, 1999, 2000.

NH State Police Marijuana Eradication School  
Open Fields Lecture, 1999 & 2000.  
New Hampshire Criminal Investigator's Association  
Panel discussion on Detection, Investigation and Monitoring of Child Sex Offenders.  
March, 1989.

**OTHER**

Amherst Congregational Church, Amherst, New Hampshire. Trustee 2007-2008;  
member 2003 - 2017.

St. George's Episcopal Church, Durham, New Hampshire. A member and Sunday School  
volunteer, 1996-1999.

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe, Member of Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> District, Maine.  
Washington, DC. May - July, 1983.  
Intern: Legislative correspondence primarily in the areas of foreign affairs and women's  
issues.

American Society of International Law  
1982-1984. Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition. 1983.

Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, Rockland, Maine. August, 1976.