

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

Matter #	Case Name	Investigator	Report Date
2025180174	Review of Dianne Martin's Employment in Judicial Branch	Richard C. Tracy	December 5, 2025

Judge Christopher M. Keating,
State Court Administrator
Judicial Branch, Supreme Ct.

November 5, 2025, Attorney General John M. Formella, Deputy Attorney General James T. Boffetti, Associate Attorney General Chris Bond and I met with Judge Keating, NH Judicial Branch (NHJB) General Counsel Jessica A. King and outside counsel for the judicial branch, Attorney Rick Lehman for a prearranged meeting.

Judge Keating and his counsel expressed concern about discussing an NHJB personnel matter with us. Dep. AG Boffetti stated that we understand their concerns but said we could discuss the circumstances leading up to the October 23, 2025, NHPR Todd Bookman article, the statement released by the Supreme Court regarding the Dianne Martin matter and a letter from Attorney Jane E. Young advising DOJ that she is representing Chief Justice MacDonald in this matter, without the need for them to disclose confidential information.

Judge Keating explained that until March 3, 2025, he had been “sitting as a judge” in the Laconia Circuit Court. On March 3, 2025, Judge Keating was appointed the Interim Director of the Court. Judge Keating stated that two weeks ago his titled changed to “State Court Administrator” and he is now in charge of the ancillary court staff, security, human resource and payroll. Judge Keating stated that the Chief Justice oversees the Superior Court and Circuit Court Judges.

Judge Keating recalled that Justice Donovan contacted Judge Keating the last week of February 2025 to discuss his becoming the interim director of the AOC, which they continued to discuss throughout the weekend of March 1 and 2. Monday, March 3, Judge Keating was appointed interim director for the courts.

Judge Keating stated that he was not part of any meeting or conversation on February 28, 2025, that Justice Donovan and others had with court staff regarding Dianne Martin. Judge Keating stated that he came to understand that Martin was placed on paid leave. Judge Keating later learned that Martin was laid off.

Judge Keating stated that there may have been an implicit threat but not an explicit threat of litigation from Martin involving her removal as Director of the AOC. He was aware that Erin Creegan, then general counsel at NHJB had discussions and negotiations with Dianne Martin over the status of her employment within NHJB.

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Judge Keating stated that presently he does not have a specific recollection of the number of letters.

Judge Keating believes it was mid-March when he was asked to look into Dianne Martin being laid off and rehired. Judge Keating asked [REDACTED] to contact the Division of Personnel (DOP) within The Department of Administrative Services to inquire about that process and to keep him in the loop. Judge Keating believes that [REDACTED] met Matt Mavrogeorge and Lorri Rudis at DOP, but [REDACTED] did not include Judge Keating in that meeting as he had asked. Judge Keating stated that he hoped to attend the meeting with DOP and wondered if [REDACTED] purposely excluded him. Judge Keating stated that he never spoke with Mavrogeorge or Rudis about the Martin issue.

Judge Keating recalled that there were several drafts of the letter that involved the lay-off and rehiring of Dianne Martin, as he wanted to make sure it was "accurate".

Judge Keating was not aware of a previous payout received by Martin when she separated from the Public Utility Commission.

Judge Keating believes that Sherry Hieber was the overseer of the NH Board of Bar Admissions for about 15 years, and that having Martin overlapped the position for 5 months, which included the processing of two bar admission sessions, seemed appropriate.

Judge Keating and his counsel were hesitant to go into details about [REDACTED] termination but did indicate that [REDACTED] had difficulty in conversing with some employees, which resulted in complaints and [REDACTED] pushed back when they asked [REDACTED]. Judge Keating's counsel suggested that if we obtained a release from [REDACTED] they would release additional information related to [REDACTED] termination.

Judge Keating stated that he was not aware that [REDACTED] expressed concerns to DOP about how the Martin layoff and rehire was handled.