

**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	Daniel J. Mederos	November 20, 2025

11/14/25- Interview with Dianne Martin at the New Hampshire Department of Justice

On November 13, 2025, I was assigned to assist with an interview scheduled for November 14, 2025 with:

Dianne Martin (“Martin”)
General Counsel
New Hampshire Supreme Court Office of Bar Admissions

The interview was in reference to a preliminary review being conducted by the Department of Justice. This review involved the facts and circumstances referenced in Todd Bookman’s recent report on NHPR (New Hampshire Public Radio online) regarding Martin’s employment within the New Hampshire Judicial Branch to determine if any appropriate next steps were warranted. This interview was scheduled and agreed upon through Martin’s private counsel:

Emma Sisti
Shaheen & Gordon Attorneys at Law
107 Storrs Street, Concord, NH 03301

On November 14, 2025 at approximately 4:30 pm, Deputy Attorney General James Boffetti, Associate Attorney General Christopher Bond and I met with Martin and Attorney Sisti at the New Hampshire Department of Justice at 1 Granite Place South, Concord, NH. Martin had signed in as visitors with reception prior to being escorted upstairs with Attorney Sisti to a fourth-floor conference room where the interview was conducted. After introductions, Martin was advised the purpose of the interview relates to an initial review regarding her employment within the Judicial Branch and that no formal criminal investigation has been opened regarding this matter. Martin was asked and respectfully declined to have our contact audio recorded. Martin confirmed the following in reference to her employment within the Judicial Branch:

She confirmed she was asked to join the Judicial Branch as the Director of Administration by Chief Justice Gordon MacDonald in November 2021. She expressed she had high hopes of taking on this new position to assist with changes within the Judicial Branch. During her position as Director of Administration, her sole point of contact and supervisor was Chief Justice MacDonald, who she reported directly to. By 2023 she felt stressed in her position due to the changes within the court and human resource related issues among other things. This was while working upwards of 70 hours per week. Under these conditions in 2024, [REDACTED] and by August 2024 she began a stint of approved leave being fully out of work. Although she was

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fully on leave, admittedly she was terrible at saying “no” and assisted while out with some work to include the budget and other projects she was invested in. She was aware other Judicial Branch employees were tasked to “pickup work” due to her leave.

In December 2024 into January 2025, she returned to work from her leave with approval to work up to 40 hours per week with flexible work scheduling. After this return to work, she described that her overall workplace dynamic “felt different”. She believed Chief Justice MacDonald was annoyed as the workplace was chaotic, describing the justices as not agreeing with or communicating with each other and not being on the same page regarding the administration of the court. She pointed out that this was during the time period Justice Anna Barbara Hantz Marconi was on leave from the court. Martin advised there were always problems and justices would approach her about issues with staff. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. She expressed that the combination of these issues made it a difficult work environment for her. She cited the diversity, equity and inclusion initiative project of the court and its grant funding as one of the contentious topics at the Judicial Branch. She said she had limited interactions with justices about these projects but described an interaction with Chief Justice MacDonald on/or about February 25, 2025 regarding her understanding and the completion of billing for work associated with the diversity, equity and inclusion project. Martin described later receiving a text message from the Chief Justice on her work cell phone directing her to shut down the project and that she was uncomfortable relaying this to the project members.

Soon after, she was invited to a meeting with Justices Patrick Donovan and Melissa Countway scheduled for February 28, 2025 at 10:00 am at the Supreme Court in Concord. This meeting was scheduled by the justices’ support staff. Martin was unaware of what the meeting was about. She prepared for this meeting with topics of discussion as if it was the type of meeting she would typically have with Chief Justice MacDonald. She believed this meeting with these justices would be addressing and helping with the Chief Justice’s workload.

Martin met with Justices Donovan and Countway on Friday February 28, 2025. At this meeting, Martin advised the justices she had prepared an agenda for the meeting. Justice Donovan stated words to the effect that they were “here to let you know your position is being eliminated effective immediately” and “You are going to be replaced by a judge” referencing a reorganization at the Judicial Branch. She advised there was no previous communication about this reorganization, and she was completely shocked by this notification. She was offered the

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position of General Counsel to the Office of Bar Admissions at the Judicial Branch, at this meeting, which she refused.

She was aware the General Counsel to the Office of Bar Admissions position was a position the court had been attempting to fill as the individual in that position was due to retire in August 2025. The plan was to hire for the position prior to the February and July bar exams so the new General Counsel would have overlapped time with the current General Counsel to become familiar with the position. She stated the General Counsel position was structured under her supervision as the Director of Administration. She declined the offer of this position as it paid less than her current position and she felt that it was a demotion.

During this meeting, Martin did point out that there was a process in the Judicial Branch policies regarding layoffs. After discussion about this process, Justice Donovan commented to Martin words to the effect of "other people had to do parts of your job". Justice Countway advised that their meeting was not a negotiation, and that the court had made a decision, advising Martin her position was "at will". This meeting concluded with Justice Donovan requesting and collecting from Martin her work computer, work cellphone, work identification and access cards with no further instruction as she was escorted out of the building by Justice Countway. She left this meeting under the impression the termination of her employment was effective that day. She was not provided with any written documentation or notification of this termination/layoff at this time. The next day, she made arrangements through Erin Creegan ("Creegan"), the Judicial Branch General Counsel at the time, to retrieve personal items from her office at the Administrate Office of the Courts. She later discovered Justice Donovan sent a message to all court staff that Martin was removed from her position immediately and Judge Christopher Keating would be taking over as Administrator of the Court.

The following Monday March 3, 2025, she reached out and corresponded from her personal email with Chief Justice MacDonald and Creegan regarding her position elimination. During this correspondence the Chief Justice praised Martin and expressed his hope she would take the General Counsel to the Office of the Bar Admissions position. She was under the impression Chief MacDonald was aware of the planned termination/layoff and provided his reasoning for the termination/ layoff as being nothing to do with her performance and was just a reorganization of the position.

After consulting with private counsel, on March 12, 2025 she began communicating and negotiating with Creegan regarding the termination/layoff from the Director of Administration position and still open offer for the General Counsel to the Office of the Bar Admissions

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position. Creegan expressed to Martin that Creegan was unaware of and knew nothing of the decision to terminate/layoff Martin. She believed Creegan was tasked with negotiating the risk associated with the process or lack thereof associated with Martin's termination/layoff. This is when Martin discovered she remained on paid administrative leave while the Judicial Branch formally processed her layoff effective April 1, 2025 which was documented in a letter dated April 1, 2025 sent to Martin from Judge Keating.

While negotiating with Creegan three potential options were presented and discussed to include: being offered the General Counsel to the Office of Bar Admissions position at a higher labor grade pay scale, talk about a monetary sum under a release to cover time spent searching for new employment, or potentially working alongside Judge Keating in some capacity. She eventually agreed to the verbal offer for the General Counsel to the Officer of Bar Admissions position at the higher pay rate. Martin was formally offered this position in writing from Judge Keating in a letter dated March 27, 2025. Martin executed and signed the offer letter agreeing to the terms of employment on April 3, 2025. Per the terms of the offer, her rehire date in this new position was scheduled for April 4, 2025. She denied ever being asked to sign any type of release in reference to taking this new position.

Martin stated that during this negotiation with Creegan, Martin denied threatening a lawsuit associated with her termination/ layoff and the retroactive accruals paid out to her in the amount of approximately \$49,000.00. She confirmed these calculated accrual amounts compiled by the Judicial Branch were presented to her by Creegan prior to the payout and Martin asserted they appeared accurate. Martin advised all her prior leave was properly documented, submitted, and approved by the Chief Justice pursuant to Judicial Branch procedures.

She confirmed she still holds her position as General Counsel to the Office of Bar Admissions, which is a remote position that now reports directly to the Chief Justice. In October 2025, Judge Keating reached out to her regarding a press inquiry relating to Martin's employment advising ██████████ had painted an unflattering picture regarding the termination/layoff and rehiring of Martin. She encouraged the court to be forthcoming that the layoff was due to a restructuring by the court. She provided her work email and cell number to Judge Keating for any inquiries directed to her. She was aware the court decided against providing a statement in response to the press inquiry and Martin was never contacted directly by the press regarding this inquiry or prior to Todd Bookman's published report on NHPR regarding her employment within the New Hampshire Judicial Branch. Martin stated she was unaware the Supreme Court Justices were going to issue the statement released on October 30, 2025 related to her layoff and current employment.

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The interview with Martin concluded at approximately 7:15 pm.

End of report

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