



C. Christine (Fillmore) Johnston Attorney

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Bio

Christine (Fillmore) Johnston focuses her practice on municipal law, serving the legal needs of towns, cities, and village districts across New Hampshire. Christine finds it immensely rewarding to empower municipal decision makers – who are often volunteers – to fulfill their duties and serve their communities.

Christine counsels clients on a wide variety of municipal issues including, but not limited to, governance issues, elections, New Hampshire's Right to Know Law, road law, land use and enforcement, budgeting and annual meetings, municipal taxation, contracts and ordinance drafting, local welfare assistance, public safety, and environmental issues.

Christine has represented clients before state trial and appellate courts and administrative boards and agencies, and her expertise is a tremendous asset for her clients. Notably, she defeated the Northern Pass high-voltage transmission project. Representing eight towns (with attorneys representing five more municipalities), she successfully opposed the project at the agency level before the state Site Evaluation Committee and subsequently on appeal before the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

Christine is the co-author (with her husband, Cordell A. Johnston) of the municipal volumes of the New Hampshire Practice treatise: Vol. 13 and 14 (Local Government Law), Vol. 15 (Land Use Planning & Zoning), and Vol. 16 (Municipal Taxation & Road Law). She has authored many publications for the New Hampshire Municipal Association, including *A Hard Road to Travel: New Hampshire Law of Local Highways, Streets and Trails* (2015 ed.) and handbooks in various editions between 2005

Practice Areas

Municipal Law

Admissions

New Hampshire
U.S. District Court for the
District of New Hampshire

and 2014. She also lectures extensively on municipal law.

In her free time, Christine travels, experiments in the kitchen, and is a crossword puzzle and reading enthusiast. She also enjoys exploring New Hampshire's backroads with her husband and capturing the majesty and silliness of her two cats.

Education

Boston College Law School, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1998

Tufts University, B.A., *cum laude*, 1992

Publications

New Hampshire Practice Series: Local Government Law (Volumes 13, 14 and 14A) | LexisNexis Store (Lexis 2023-present)

New Hampshire Practice Series: Land Use Planning & Zoning (Volume 15) | LexisNexis Store (Lexis 2023-present)

New Hampshire Practice Series: Municipal Taxation and Road Law (Volume 16) | LexisNexis Store (Lexis 2023-present)

Knowing the Territory: A Survey of Municipal Law for NH Local Officials; Handbook for Elected City Officials; The Basic Law of Town, School District and Village District Budgeting; Town Meeting and School Meeting Handbook; How to Regulate Junk and Junkyards; the Art of Welfare New Hampshire Municipal Association (various editions 2005-2014)

Riding the Wave: Social Media in Local Government N.H. Bar Journal (Winter 2012, Vol. 52, No. 4)

Drug and Alcohol Testing of Municipal Employees International Municipal Lawyers' Association, Municipal Lawyers Magazine (Jan/Feb 2012)

A Hard Road to Travel: New Hampshire Law of Local Highways, Streets, and Trails New Hampshire Municipal Association (2015 ed.)

Representative Clients & Matters

Christine successfully defeated the Northern Pass high-voltage transmission project – which would have been a 192-mile transmission line traveling from the Canadian border south through 32 different municipalities in New Hampshire. Representing eight towns, she with attorneys representing five more municipalities to successfully oppose the project at the agency level before the NH Site Evaluation Committee

and on appeal at the NH Supreme Court.

Memberships

NH Bar Association, Municipal & Government Law Section

NH Bar Journal Committee, *2015*

International Municipal Lawyers' Association, *2005-present*

NH Women's Bar Association, Vice President (2004-2005), Secretary (2002-2004), Membership Director (1999-2004)

American Bar Association, *1998-2007*

Community/Public Service

Phi Sigma Sigma Foundation
former Director and Vice President

Capital Regional Development Council
Former President, Vice President, Loan Review Committee, Governance Committee and Real Estate Committee Chair (2001-2014)

Recognition

Best Lawyers, Land Use and Zoning 2025