

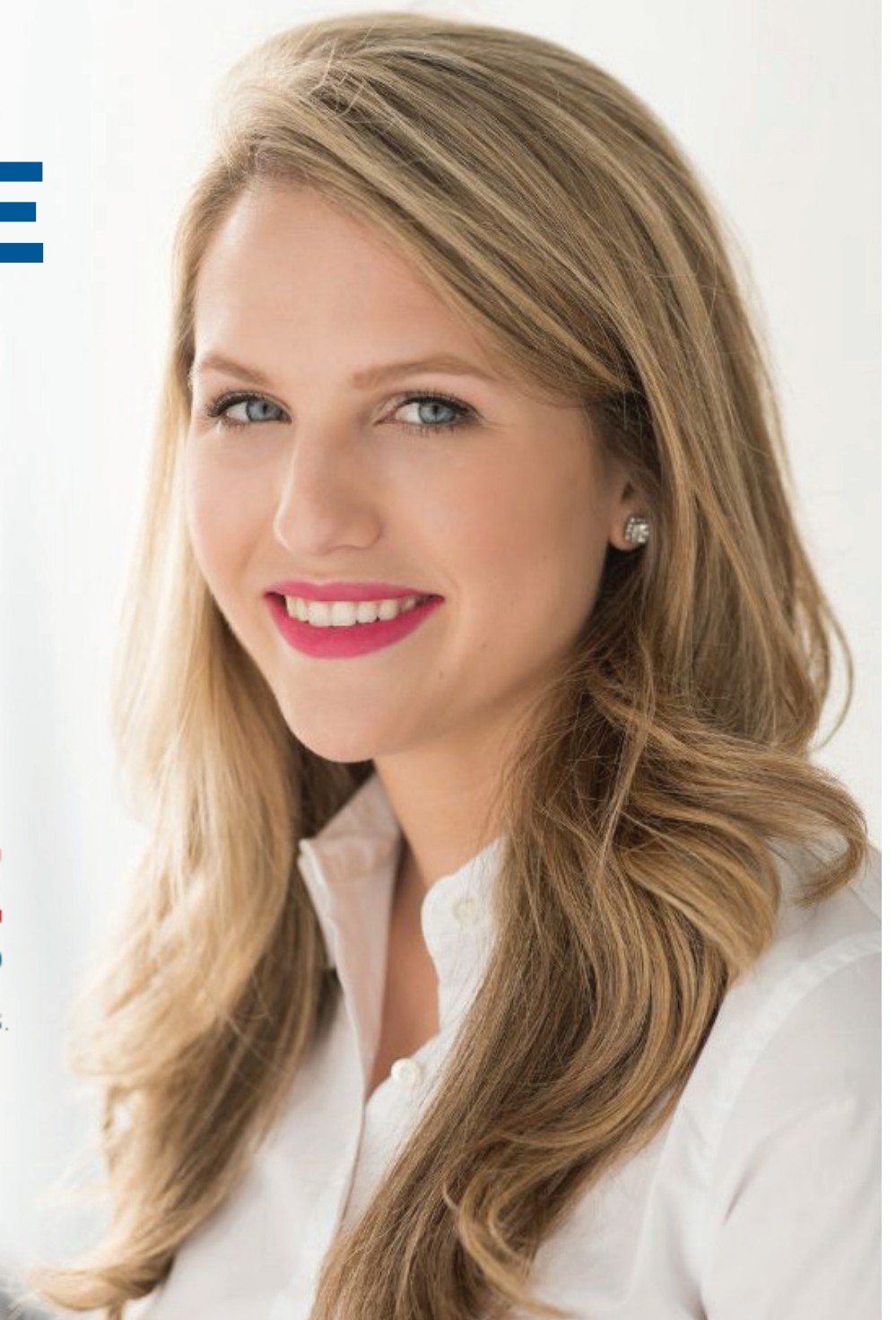
THE KENTUCKY GAZETTE'S
2022 NOTABLE WOMEN
IN KENTUCKY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT



CONGRATULATIONS

**JULIE
BABBA**

KENTUCKY
NOTABLE
WOMEN



THE KENTUCKY GAZETTE'S 2022 NOTABLE WOMEN IN KENTUCKY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

A Note from the Publisher

Dear Readers,

Thank you for taking your time to read this third edition of The Kentucky Gazette’s “Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government.”

These 50 women represent some of the most intelligent and powerful women leading our commonwealth in a broad range of fields – elected office, government service, labor, lobbying, and nonprofit leadership.

These women make things happen in fields that mostly are dominated by men.

A handful of these women are “firsts.” First female doctor in the Kentucky Senate, first woman to head the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission, first woman from Warren County in the General Assembly, first female attorney at a large firm, first woman elected to the Kenton Circuit Court bench. They are true ground-breakers.

Even so, men still dominate the public affairs world.

Both chambers of the Kentucky General Assembly are majority male, with little likely to change after the

November general election.

Six of 38 state senators, or roughly 16%, are women. A third of the nominees running for the state Senate in November are women – nine of 27.

Things are better on the House side. Women make up 32% of the lower chamber in Kentucky’s General Assembly, holding 32 of the 100 seats. In November, 148 candidates are on the ballot, and 57 of them, or 39 percent, are women.

No women are running on the November ballot this year to represent Kentucky in Congress.

The judicial branch is perhaps the most balanced of Kentucky’s three branches of government. Three of seven Kentucky Supreme Court justices are female, and exactly half of the judges serving on the 14-member Kentucky Appeals Court are women, including the court’s chief judge, Denise Clayton.

In the administration of Gov. Andy Beshear, four of 12 cabinet secretaries (33%) and the governor’s chief of staff are women.

Women make up about a third of the registered lobbyists in Frankfort, and they advocate on complex, relevant issues like health care and taxes, pensions and local government.

In the Fourth Estate, most of the reporters covering Frankfort are men as well.

Earlier this year, The Kentucky Gazette asked its members and social media followers to nominate women who make a difference in Kentucky public affairs. Nominators emailed us the names and reasons why these women should be honored. It’s as fascinating to read the nominations as it is to read the Notable Women’s bios when they’re submitted. I will say, these women have fans who respect their work. Several of these women were nominated by more than one person, and, like last year, people nominated across party lines: This year, a Republican nominated one of the Democrats you’ll read about here.

You’ll also notice a few people this year who have been honored in past years. We deliberated about including people a second time and decided we would, since their work in the intervening time warrants new attention.

I want to thank our advertising partner Donna Hawes Hodsdon, owner of Creek House Sales, for her exceptional work on this and other Gazette projects.

And thank you all again for reading The Kentucky Gazette.

Laura Cullen Glasscock, editor and publisher

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The Kentucky Gazette

Laura Cullen Glasscock *editor, publisher*

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KAREN ARMSTRONG-CUMMINGS

TOGETHER FRANKFORT

Karen Armstrong-Cummings, founding chair of the civic group Together Frankfort, envisions a future with: 100 % voter turnout; civic engagement pathways, including voter registration, established for every person's 16th birthday; a culture of valuing compassion, cooperation and honesty; elections in which only voters, not money, decide the winners.

Idealism remains a guiding force for Armstrong-Cummings, decades after planting seeds of sustainability policies to replace ones that defined environment and development as forces locked in opposition. After attending the 1992 United Earth Summit, Armstrong-Cummings facilitated a follow-up national conference in her role as Kentucky's environmental deputy secretary.

Her 55-year career includes: implementing a small grants program for tobacco farmers to diversify farm income; teaching at a Quaker school in North Carolina; weeding vegetables and serving salads at an organic farm and restaurant partnership in France; testifying to Congress on policies to support small farms and rural communities; meeting with President Clinton and Vice President Gore, urging a resolution to conflicting policies of tobacco production and consumption; establishing Together Frankfort to educate citizens toward greater, more informed, and more productive civic engagement.

The North Carolina native earned degrees at Mars Hill University, Université Nice-Sophia Antipolis, Kentucky State University, with additional graduate work at Duke University and Leslie University. Armstrong-Cummings lives in Frankfort.



JULIA BABBAGE LAUNGANI

BABBAGE COFOUNDER

Julia Babbage Laungani is recognized for her transformative leadership, a style that is results driven and positive. Babbage is making a mark nationally as well as in Kentucky as a leading advocate in health-care action.

Babbage Cofounder, Babbage's firm, manages the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition, with Babbage serving as executive director. Since she took this role, DPAC has impacted key federal changes with both the Trump and Biden administrations, an impressive bipartisan record. DPAC is also advancing state initiatives changing diabetes and obesity including right here at home. Critical to the success, Babbage notes an "all-star DPAC CEO and board" plus a growing "standing army of advocates" now numbering over 5,000 nationwide.

One long-term project she is working on is Meeting of America, a national project addressing America's broken conversation and pervasive culture of conflict. She is joined with numerous leaders to turn down the heat, build a better sense of community, and find a way forward (MeetingOfAmerica.us).

During the recent legislative session, Babbage supported important causes, especially those related to health and workforce.

Overall, she leads as a shareholder and partner in Babbage Cofounder, a 25-year-old company carried on by a new generation of leadership. A mentor and trusted colleague with a record of developing individual advocates and national coalitions, Babbage is paving the way for continued, lasting legacies.



KAREN BERG

KENTUCKY SENATE

State Sen. Karen Berg, M.D., was elected to the Kentucky Senate after winning a special election in the 26th District in April 2020. She is the first female physician to serve in the Kentucky Senate and has contributed a broad perspective as a health-care provider and physician administrator in rural and urban hospitals, public and private hospitals, and the VA health-care system.

Berg is a native Kentuckian, still living in the Louisville home her parents built in the 1950s. She attended Chenoweth Elementary, Kammerer Middle, Barret Traditional Middle, Ballard High, Louisville Collegiate and Central High schools. After graduating from Central, Berg attended Vanderbilt University and the University of Kentucky, majoring in political science, interning for state Sen. Wendell Ford, and graduating as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

She earned her medical degree at the University of Louisville and then studied internal medicine at the Medical College of Pennsylvania (now Drexler University). Berg returned to U of L, completed a residency in diagnostic radiology and joined the staff.

Notable appointments include clinical vice chair of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology at U of L, medical director of diagnostic imaging at Robley Rex VAMC, and chief of staff at Charlestown Regional Medical Center.

Berg is the only legislator in the General Assembly who is Jewish. She has served on the board of her congregation and chaired her congregation's worship and ritual committee for years. Berg has two children, Rachael Pass and Henry Berg-Brousseau.



DINAH BEVINGTON

KENTUCKY OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATION

Dinah Bevington is executive director of the Kentucky Optometric Association, where she is responsible for all aspects of the association on behalf of over 600 members.

Drawing on years of legal and government affairs experience, she focuses on advocating and advancing the optometric profession, as well as improving the eye health of the public.

Under her leadership since 2015, the association advanced several policy initiatives, including consumer protection in eye care and drivers' vision safety. Her efforts helped ensure that citizens continued to receive crucial eye care during the COVID pandemic, further establishing Kentucky optometry as a state and national leader.

She is also executive director of two non-profit organizations, the Kentucky Vision Project and the Kentucky Optometric Foundation. She currently serves on the International Association of Optometric Executives Board and the Kentucky Society of Association Executives Board of Directors.

Bevington served for over eight years in the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet. During her tenure, she was acting cabinet secretary, general counsel and staff attorney. Before joining state government, she practiced in Lexington at the law firm of Landrum & Shouse. She received a bachelor's degree from Western Kentucky University, with a double major in government and communications, and her law degree from the University of Kentucky.

She and her husband, John, live in Frankfort with their three children, where the family is actively involved in many civic activities.



CAITLIN BLAIR

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS

Caitlin Blair is the political and communications director for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227 in Louisville. She is responsible for the advancement of legislative and electoral priorities that will make life better for Kentucky and Indiana working families.

Blair also coordinates a growing, grassroots union-member activist network, an aggressive internal and external communications operation, and a strong community engagement strategy focused on getting all hard-working women and men the better wages, benefits and justice they deserve.

Blair serves as chair of the board of directors of Emerge Kentucky, the commonwealth’s premier training program for Democratic women who want to run for political office. She also serves on the board of Kentuckiana Works, the Governor’s Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board and the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy.

Blair received the 2019 Metro United Way Community Service Award for her work over 10 years to empower thousands of hard-working Kentuckians to share their stories with their elected representatives in Frankfort. This grassroots effort contributed to the 2019 passage of the Kentucky Pregnant Workers Act, which gives clear rights to pregnancy accommodations for Kentucky workers. She holds a master’s degree from George Washington University’s Graduate School of Political Management and a bachelor’s degree in political science from Appalachian State University. She lives in Louisville with her husband, Bob Blair, and their two dogs, Franklin and Eleanor.



AMY BURKE

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Amy Burke is assistant deputy attorney general for Kentucky and heads the Criminal Division in the office of Attorney General Daniel Cameron.

Prior to this position, Burke as served the chief prosecutor for the Kenton County Attorney’s Office, where she specialized in prosecuting a wide range of both misdemeanor and felony cases, including violence against women and children, impaired driving, drug trafficking and gun violence.

Burke has worked extensively as a county attorney in Kenton County’s family courts, handling dependency, abuse and neglect cases.

She began her law career as a law clerk at the Kenton County Attorney’s Office before becoming an assistant county attorney a few years later.

Over the years, Burke has provided criminal-justice training to multiple law enforcement officers, other prosecutors and allied professionals, including sexual-assault nurse examiners and domestic-violence emergency nurses. She has mentored young prosecutors throughout her service to the commonwealth.

Since 2001, she has served as an adjunct faculty member at Northern Kentucky University’s Department of Criminal Justice Studies. She formerly served as a faculty member at the National Advocacy Center in South Carolina, as well as faculty for the Kentucky Prosecutor’s Institute.

Burke is a graduate of Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University and of Eastern Kentucky University. She lives in Grant County.



Congratulations

DANIELLE JONES

The Kentucky Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet congratulates our Executive Director of Public Affairs and Constituent Services on being named one of **The Kentucky Gazette’s 2022 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government.**



SHARON BUTTS

**SOUTH WESTERN KENTUCKY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

Sharon Butts has served as associate director for the South Western Kentucky Economic Development Council since 2013. She previously was director for Cadiz-Trigg County Economic Development for over 10 years. In these roles, she works with regional industries in retention, recruitment of new industries, community development, as well as with community leaders, state and regional economic development partners and the TVA to foster and sustain job growth.

Butts led the team that won the prestigious TVA TaP program certification in 2009. She also steered the TVA Sustainability Programs for both Trigg and Christian counties, which led to Silver and Gold designations, and she led the Work Ready Initiative Certification for Trigg County. Butts also serves on a number of boards, including the Trigg County Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Pennyriple Chamber Alliance, the West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance and the Pennyriple Electric Manufacturing Advisory Committee. She is a member of the Kentucky Association for Economic Development and other organizations, including the Southern Economic Development Council.

She volunteers for Power for Life Mentoring Program as well as at Trigg County schools. She is secretary of the Cadiz Rotary Club and is a member of Cerulean Baptist Church, where she is the church organist. Butts is a graduate of Murray State University, with a bachelor of science degree in business administration. She and her husband, Steve, have two grown children and one grandson.

**BRANDY CANTOR**

MML&K GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

Brandy Cantor, a Frankfort native, has nearly two decades of experience in government relations. In 2004, Cantor joined the team at MML&K Government Solutions, a highly regarded government relations firm, representing many companies and industries throughout the commonwealth and in Washington D.C. While she has expertise in a broad array of policy areas, her focus is health care and children's issues. Over the course of her career, she has proven to be a knowledgeable and skillful advocate.

Prior to joining MML&K, Cantor worked for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services. During her tenure, she served as executive assistant to the cabinet secretary and as a resource management analyst for the Division of Policy and Financial Management.

In those roles, she was involved in a wide range of issues touching almost every department within the cabinet, including Medicaid, pharmacy, contracting and budget.

In addition to lobbying, Cantor is the executive director of the Kentucky Association of Hospice and Palliative Care. Having first-hand experience with hospice in her own family, she understands the importance of the services provided to patients and families when facing the end of life.

Before working in government, Cantor specialized in corporate special events, something she still truly enjoys. Cantor graduated cum laude from the University of Kentucky, with a bachelor's degree in business management and marketing. Today, she calls Frankfort her home with her husband and two sons.



Congratulations!

SHELLIE HAMPTON

Director of Government Affairs

Kentucky Association of Counties



**2022 Notable Woman in
Politics and Government**

MARY LYNN COLLINS
TOGETHER FRANKFORT

Now retired, Mary Lynn Collins spent over 30 years working for the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission. She worked as an analyst on energy and environmental issues, and, in her later tenure, she was the committee staff administrator for the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.

She is a founding member and a current coordinator for Together Frankfort. This organization is nonpartisan, encourages civic participation and hosts educational forums.

As an alumnus of Kentucky State University, Collins is active in the local alumni chapter and works on ways to bring the local community and the university closer together.

She was a founding member of the Friends of Kentucky Public Libraries and, in retirement, continues her efforts in library advocacy. She serves on the board of the Paul Sawyer Public Library in Frankfort and is co-manager of the library's Friends Bookstore.

For a number of years, Collins has served as the "beekeeper" for Frankfort's Spellapalooza, recruiting teams to participate in a local spelling bee that raises money for adult education. She also serves on the Franklin County Democratic Party's Executive Committee and on the League of Women Voters of Kentucky's Redistricting Committee.

Collins is a plaintiff in a case filed in the Franklin Circuit Court regarding the state House and congressional redistricting plans adopted by the 2022 General Assembly.

An avid gardener, Collins volunteers in the gardens of Liberty Hall. She is widowed, has a son and daughter and four grandchildren who live nearby.



MARIE ALAGIA CULL
CULL & HAYDEN

Marie Alagia Cull practices law with Marian Jameson Hayden and Holly Turner Curry at Cull & Hayden in Frankfort, a firm she founded in 1995. The firm concentrates in health-care administrative law and advocacy. Throughout her career, Cull has played integral roles in many groundbreaking health-care initiatives, successfully collaborating with providers and stakeholders across the health-care continuum.

In addition to practicing law and advocating positions before various state agencies and the legislature, Cull serves on the Visiting Committee at the University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law, where she was admitted to the law school's Hall of Fame in 2011.

Cull is also a founding member of the University of Kentucky Women & Philanthropy network and remains active in its mission.

She has always been involved in her community and currently serves on the Frankfort Urban Forestry Advisory Board, is president of the Capital Ovarian Cancer Organization, an active member of the Garden Club of Frankfort, and other civic and community organizations. For fun, Cull likes to garden and travel.

She grew up in Louisville and graduated with a degree in political science from Trinity College in Washington D.C. While in college, Cull spent her sophomore year abroad at Oxford University and worked in U.S. Sen. Walter "Dee" Huddleston's office on Capitol Hill. After college, Cull attended law school at the University of Kentucky.

Cull and her husband, Bill, live in Frankfort.



Congratulations to Caitlin Blair
on being named one of the
2022 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government



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Bob Blair
President
UFCW Local 227

Paul L. Whiteley, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer
UFCW Local 227

JILL FRALEY DOTSON

CITY OF PIKEVILLE

Jill Dotson is the executive director of economic development for the city of Pikeville. She is a staple in the Pikeville community – from tourism to arts to economic development, her impact will be felt for years to come in Pikeville and the Appalachian region.

Dotson worked for years as an evening anchor and producer for WYMT-TV in Hazard, followed by working as an account executive with East Kentucky Broadcasting. After leaving the TV business and moving to Pikeville, she quickly found ways to positively impact Eastern Kentucky.

She worked as the public relations director and Title I coordinator for Pikeville Independent Schools and has continued to work towards bettering the region by utilizing her strong background in public relations and communications.

In her current role, Dotson works to attract new businesses and entrepreneurs to Pikeville, working closely with the Pikeville Economic and Industrial Development Authority. She brings enthusiasm and professionalism to her job every day and has become a leader – not only in the community, but in the entire region.

In addition to her full-time position with Pikeville, Dotson serves on the Kentucky Small Business Development Center Advisory Board, is the Pikeville Main Street program supervisor, and is on numerous planning committees throughout the community.

Dotson is a lifelong resident of Eastern Kentucky. She lives in Pikeville with her husband, Derek, and their daughter.

**RITA DOTSON**

CITY OF BENTON

Rita Dotson is the mayor of Benton and helped steer the community through the December tornado disaster, the worst to hit Kentucky in the history of the commonwealth.

Dotson is a member of the Kentucky League of Cities Executive Board, and in September 2021 received KLC's Leadership Enrichment and Development Award. This award highlights Kentucky mayors "who are passionate about public service and committed to lifelong learning," according to a press release.

Dotson is a business owner and supporter of local service organizations, according to KLC, and she listens to all sides of an issue. She is a strong communicator who keeps Benton's citizens apprised of government operations and has made many city improvements, including in the areas of trash pick-up, critical ordinances, ongoing street maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

She also led the city's comprehensive and strategic planning endeavors, which set the path for Benton's future.

"Benton's greatest asset is our citizens and their willingness to work together," she notes on the city's webpage.

**CATHE DYKSTRA**

FAMILY SCHOLAR HOUSE

Cathe Dykstra serves as chief possibility officer, president and CEO of Family Scholar House and as president of Family Scholar House U.S.

A graduate of Wake Forest University with a B.A. in economics, Dykstra has financial and social work experience focused on innovative approaches to developing financial independence. She is an advocate for postsecondary education that leads to livable-wage employment, and sees her role as changing the work paradigm for low-income and under-represented families from short-term support to long-term solutions. Consistent with her purpose, Dykstra serves as chair for KHEAA/KHESLC, promoting post-secondary education access and affordability.

The mission of the Family Scholar House is to end the cycle of poverty and transform communities by empowering families and youth to succeed in education and achieve life-long self-sufficiency. With five Louisville campuses, state outreach programs, and 10 national affiliates, FSH has expanded locally, regionally, and nationally to meet community and economic development needs.

Since inception, FSH has led comprehensive, holistic, wrap-around services and programs, now serving 30,000 households annually; expanded geographically; launched an affiliate program; completed \$78 million in affordable housing.

Family Scholar House received a 2020 national Rise Prize for excellence in supporting student parents and was honored with the American Planning Association HUD Secretary's Opportunity and Empowerment Award.

**KAREN FINAN**

ONE NKY ALLIANCE

Karen Finan is president and CEO of OneNKY Alliance, a group of leading regional businesses in Northern Kentucky.

With OneNKY Alliance board support, Finan and the alliance team have developed and implemented strategic initiatives focused on a unified community with an impactful voice, while pursuing world-class standards in vibrancy, health and education for the region.

The group's outlook on unity has resulted in the development of the OneNKY Frankfort facility, within walking distance of the Kentucky Capitol. The OneNKY Alliance incubated and launched LINKnky, a multimedia platform that covers Northern Kentucky.

Finan served as interim president and CEO of Northern Kentucky Tri-County Economic Development Corp. Under her leadership, national business relocations and expansions accounted for more than \$300 million in capital investment. Previously a partner with executive recruitment firm Gilman Partners, she originated the CRE/economic development practice and new-business efforts.

Cincinnati Magazine named her a Top Leader, The Lane Report noted her as one of Kentucky's Top Businesswomen, and she received the Above and Beyond Award from Redwood. She was named a Professional Woman to Watch by Cincinnati.com.

Finan holds a B.A. from Northern Kentucky University and remains active through the NKU Foundation and Norse Athletic Council. She serves on the boards of Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Notre Dame Academy and the Redwood Foundation.



SANDRA FRAZIER

TANDEM PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sandra Frazier has 30 years of public relations and community relations/investor relations experience at the corporate, non-profit and agency levels.

In 2005, she founded Tandem Public Relations, a boutique public relations and communications firm. Tandem’s clients include Fortune 500 corporations, nonprofit organizations, public institutions, and smaller businesses. Prior to starting Tandem, Frazier worked for Doe Anderson as a PR manager.

Before returning to Louisville in 2002, Frazier worked in Boston for State Street Corp. and as an account executive at Boston public relations firm, Schneider & Associates.

In 2017, Frazier and David Jones Sr., founder of Humana, co-founded Impetus for a Better Louisville, an organization of over 60 leaders from Louisville’s business, philanthropic, nonprofit and faith communities who are committed to working together and sharing accountability for Louisville’s future. Impetus has several priority focus areas, including education, fiscal issues and tax reform, public safety and increasing passenger air service. She served as chair from 2018-2021.

She is a director of The Glenview Trust Co., and previously served as a director of Brown-Forman, Commonwealth Bank & Trust and on the University of Louisville Board of Trustees. She currently serves on the board of 21st Century Parks and on the Boston University Board of Trustees. A native of Louisville, Frazier has a master’s degree from Boston University, and a bachelor’s degree from Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia.



NANCY GALVAGNI

KENTUCKY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Nancy C. Galvagni is president and CEO of the Kentucky Hospital Association, a statewide trade association representing the state’s hospitals.

As president, she is responsible for increasing the image, recognition and participation of the association in the development of public policy related to health care, advocating at the state and federal level for beneficial legislation and regulations to support hospitals, and providing services to assist hospitals in their efforts to improve the health status of the citizens of the commonwealth.

To achieve these objectives, KHA convenes hospitals through a variety of forums to work on common issues, collect and analyze data to help members evaluate health-care utilization, plan new services, and assess the impact of health-care policies on hospitals and patients.

KHA works closely with hospital executives, physicians and clinical leaders on improving the quality of care and outcomes for patients.

Through relationships with state legislators, state agencies and state officials, KHA collaborates to address health-care issues facing the state, and, most recently, it provided a leadership role in addressing COVID-19.

Prior to being named CEO in 2019, Galvagni held several positions with the KHA and was its senior vice president for 20 years.

Galvagni holds a bachelor of science degree in health planning and health-care administration from The Pennsylvania State University.



CONGRATULATIONS TO
JENA SCOTT
Named one of the
2022 Notable Women in
Kentucky Politics
and Government



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At Government Strategies, we know that our mission is to be aggressive advocates for our clients, while maintaining the integrity and professional standards that they have set for themselves. This is how we have built our business and how we help our clients expand theirs.



Rachel Bayens



Dustin Miller



Mike Shea



Prentice Harvey



Jena Scott



Mike Helton

TARA GRIESHOP-GOODWIN**KENTUCKY YOUTH ADVOCATES**

Tara Grieshop-Goodwin has 19 years of experience advocating for strong opportunities for children and youth with Kentucky Youth Advocates. She currently serves as chief impact officer, working on special projects, grant writing, and research and data to maximize the positive impact of KYA for children in Kentucky.

During her tenure at KYA, Grieshop-Goodwin has played a key role in many state-level policy changes, including passage of a graduated drivers' license law, creation of the state's external child fatality review panel to address deaths and near deaths due to abuse and neglect, and reform of Kentucky's juvenile justice system to achieve better safety and youth outcomes.

She also has coordinated key projects of Kentucky Youth Advocates over that time, including the KIDS COUNT project, which highlights the latest data on child well-being, and the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children, a unified agenda for policy change to improve the well-being of all Kentucky kids.

Grieshop-Goodwin received her bachelor of arts degree from the University of Notre Dame and a master of public affairs degree from the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University.

Though Grieshop-Goodwin and her husband, Mike, both grew up in smaller towns in Kentucky, they now live in Louisville with their two children, Finn and Henry, who always serve as a good reminder of what Kentucky kids need to grow and thrive.

**NANCY HALE****OPERATION UNITE**

Following 34 years as a teacher, career counselor and administrator, Nancy Hale joined Operation Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education as co-program director for the UNITE Service Corps (AmeriCorps) Program.

In February 2015, she was named UNITE's third president and CEO.

Hale currently serves on the advisory boards for the Rx and Illicit Drug Summit and National Recovery Month Planning Partners. She is a board member for RECON Kentucky, and a member of the Appalachian Regional Commission's Substance Use Disorder Advisory Council and the Southeast Kentucky Advisory Council for Volunteers of America.

Very involved in her community, Hale has served as an executive board member and volunteer with the Rockcastle County UNITE Coalition for the last 16 years and volunteered for 28 years with the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association.

Hale received the Golden Apple Achiever Award from Ashland Oil in 2000 as one of Kentucky's outstanding educators. In 2001, she was chosen as the Kentucky YMCA Champion and was among the first inductees into the Kentucky YMCA Youth Advisor Hall of Fame in 2010. She has twice served as president of the Kentucky Association of Professional Educators. Hale earned a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education, a master of arts in education, and Rank 1 in administration from Eastern Kentucky University.

She and her husband, John, are the parents of two grown sons, one of whom is in long-term recovery from the chronic disease of addiction, and they have four grandchildren.



Congratulations!

KATE SHANKS

**Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
Senior Vice President of Public Affairs
recognized as a Notable Woman in
Politics and Government in 2022**



Kentucky Chamber

SALLY HAMILTON
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE
URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Sally Hamilton began her career in state government in 1975 at the Kentucky Department of Local Government, after she had just received her Ph.D. in German studies and was struggling to find a teaching job.

Never did she expect to have a career in public service, but she continued with positions in the Finance Cabinet, at Kentucky Educational Television and in the Kentucky Department of Education. She retired very briefly but returned to work for former state Auditor Crit Luallen.

Her last and hopefully final career move has been to Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, where she began as commissioner of General Services.

For the last 10 years, she has served as the chief administrative officer, which has provided her the opportunity to oversee all aspects of city government and work closely with the mayor and the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council.

Public service has given her so much. She has been a part of many initiatives that have improved people's lives. Public service has taught her to listen and appreciate the struggles and differences that affect our residents.

Public service has been a rewarding challenge that she has enjoyed for 47 years and hopes to continue until at least 50 years.



SHELLIE HAMPTON
KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

Shellie Hampton has served as the director of government affairs for the Kentucky Association of Counties since 2009. KACo is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves the interests of elected county officials in all 120 counties in Kentucky.

At KACo, Hampton represents counties in all facets of the legislative process, including the development and execution of advocacy strategies and initiatives.

Hampton is also responsible for the coordination of member support for legislative proposals that assist county governments in their many mandated roles, including public safety, transportation and community development as stewards of the public trust with limited resources.

She is charged with facilitating consensus positions on priorities that support the objectives of KACo and its affiliated organizations.

Prior to joining KACo, Hampton worked for the Kentucky County Judge-Executive Association for 12 years as legislative assistant to the director.

Hampton was born and raised in Daviess County and is a graduate of the University of Kentucky.

She lives in Lexington with her husband, Steve, and their three children.



CVG Airport is proud to congratulate Karen Finan of the OneNKY Alliance on being named as one of the 2022 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government.

Thank you, Karen, for your leadership to Northern Kentucky and our Commonwealth!



JENNIFER HANCOCK**VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA MID-STATES**

Jennifer Hancock is the president and CEO of Volunteers of America of Mid-States. Under her leadership, VOA has become a nationally recognized expert in providing family-focused and results-oriented solutions for the opioid and addiction crisis. Working closely with a range of elected officials and community partners, the organization has earned recognition for providing best-practice care in more than 40 programs in four states.

In addition to addiction recovery, VOA serves veterans, housing, public health, developmental disabilities and restorative justice that help keep youth out of the criminal-justice system.

Hancock has guided VOA through extensive growth, more than tripling its capacity to serve women overcoming substance use disorder and their children through the nationally recognized Freedom House program. Freedom House is one of seven programs in the U.S. certified by the American Society of Addiction Medicine and also was one of three organizations in the U.S. to receive a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration grant to serve pregnant and parenting women.

Hancock is active in her community, serving on a number of boards, including the Kentucky Children's Justice Act Task Force, University of Louisville School of Public Health, Impetus, Smart on Crime and Advent Health Hospital Manchester. She is the incoming chair of the Leadership Louisville Center board. She received the 2022 Business First Power 50 award as well as the 2022 Enterprising Women award. Hancock earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from the University of Kentucky.

**SAMARA HEAVRIN****KY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

State Rep. Samara Heavrin represents the 18th House District, which encompasses Grayson County and a portion of Hardin County. She has served in the House of Representatives since 2019.

Heavrin is co-chair of the Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity, which is studying issues where disparities may exist across sectors of education equity, child welfare, health, economic opportunity, juvenile justice and criminal justice.

She is committed to improving services and opportunities provided for minority communities.

She is also co-chair of the legislature's Early Childhood Education Task Force, which researches all aspects of care-giving and educational structures in both public and private sectors. Heavrin is a proud member of the Pro-Life Caucus, the Women's Caucus, the Tennessee Valley Authority Caucus, the Aerospace/Aviation Caucus, the Kentucky Sportsmen Caucus, and the Western Kentucky Caucus, and the Kentucky Nonprofit Caucus.

Heavrin grew up in Leitchfield and attended Grayson County High School. She went on to study advertising in college, later graduating with a bachelor of arts degree from Western Kentucky University.

Over the years, Heavrin has dedicated time to both the Grayson County Chamber of Commerce and the Grayson County Republican Youth Chapter.

**LAURA HROMYAK HENDRIX****KY LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION**

Laura Hromyak Hendrix was appointed by the Kentucky Legislative Ethics Commission in September 2019 as executive director, the first woman in that role. She previously was the commission's counsel.

Hendrix is dedicated to the commission's nonpartisan mission of fostering confidence in governmental integrity by ensuring ethical conduct, accountability and transparency. The commission enforces the state ethics code for state lawmakers and legislative candidates, publishes The Ethics Reporter, educates, offers opinions, and maintains a searchable register and bills lobbied list at klec.ky.gov.

Hendrix has practiced extensively in ethics, elections, parliamentary, and constitutional law in her 30 years of public service, as general counsel for the House speaker, the Legislative Research Commission, the Executive Branch Ethics Commission and clerking for Franklin Circuit Judge William L. Graham. She's a 2018 Council of State Governments Toll Fellow. She earned her B.A. in history from Washington University in St. Louis, and a J.D. from the University of Kentucky College of Law, co-founding the Student Public Interest Law Foundation and serving on the Journal of Mineral Law & Policy.

She and her husband, Doug, have three children and live in Frankfort, where she serves as assistant moderator/parliamentarian for their church. She has served on Sunshine Center-Family Shelter's boards, the Frankfort Planning Commission and the Elkhorn Middle School council, spearheaded a parent summit, and volunteered as academic team assistant coach, official and booster officer. She enjoys singing, crosswords and historic research.

**KETURAH HERRON****KY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

As state representative for the 42nd District in Louisville, Keturah Herron is a new face in the state legislature.

Prior to being elected, Herron worked as a policy strategist at the ACLU of Kentucky, where she focused on racial equity, juvenile and criminal justice, and public health. Her experience includes working at the Administrative Office of the Courts as a court-designated specialist, Kapolei Juvenile Detention Center as a juvenile-detention worker, and Three Rivers Midlands Campus as a counselor. Herron was responsible for crafting Breonna's Law for the Louisville Metro Council, which passed in 17 days.

In Frankfort, Herron worked on legislation pertaining to school safety, the expungement of criminal records for nonviolent offenders, and changing the process for warrants authorizing law enforcement entry without notice. She worked with Kentucky's executive branch to ensure voting rights were restored as broadly as possible. She also co-founded a statewide re-entry coalition to assist those released from incarceration, including due to COVID-19.

Herron graduated from the University of Louisville in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in science, and from Eastern Kentucky University in 2009 with a master of science degree in corrections, juvenile justice studies. She has continued training through the School Justice Partnership Institution of California, and in Baltimore and Chicago.

In 2022, she was named the USA Today Kentucky Woman of the Year. Herron believes we have to be a teacher and student of life in order for us to make change.



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KIMBERLY ISHMAEL**COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE**

Kimmie Ishmael serves as policy campaign coordinator for Community Farm Alliance in Frankfort.

Ishmael grew up in a farming family in Fleming County. From dairy to tobacco to beef cattle, the farming industry has given her many opportunities and life experiences that helped mold her into the person she is today.

From high school through college, and now motherhood, she has always fought for the underdog.

Though still learning the ins and outs of the Kentucky statehouse, she has worked alongside state legislators and has extensive experience in community organizing, as well as working with political campaigns.

In the past year, she ran a campaign that secured funding for food-incentive programs that use Kentucky-grown products. At CFA, Ishmael works to ensure farmers, especially disadvantaged farmers, have a voice. From working on poultry processing to fighting bills that would cut safety-net programs, she has been at the forefront making sure those farmers are represented. Still growing as an organizer, she believes policy is about people and hopes to encourage those to get involved in the political and legislative process. To quote Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Ishmael attended Bluegrass Community and Technical College, majoring in education. In her limited off-time she likes to paint, hike and camp, and spend time with her 8-year-old son.

**DANIELLE JONES****TOURISM, ARTS & HERITAGE CABINET**

Danielle Jones serves as the executive director of public affairs for the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet. There, she is responsible for executing strategic communication plans that showcase Kentucky as a premiere travel and business destination.

Jones, a native of Glasgow, has dedicated her career to public service. She is a proud Kentuckian who believes the key to building strong communities is through tourism, economic and workforce development.

Throughout her career, Jones has utilized her expertise to shape policy through strategic communications and bipartisan relationships. She has served as the chief spokeswoman for two executive branch cabinets and as executive advisor to various elected and governor-appointed officials.

Jones began her professional career in Louisville, where she served as chief deputy of government affairs for the elected circuit court clerk. There, she helped implement criminal-justice initiatives, such as the 24-hour domestic violence intake center.

After serving eight years in the judicial branch, Jones was appointed as an executive policy advisor at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. In 2018, she was appointed as the executive director of communications at the Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. There, she executed communications strategies designed to encourage workforce participation and career development. Jones is a graduate of Glasgow High School and the University of Louisville. She currently resides in Louisville.



CONGRATULATIONS

Shelby Williams Somervell

Vice President, Government Affairs & Communications

Greater Louisville Inc. celebrates Shelby Williams Somervell being named a 2022 Notable Woman in Kentucky Politics and Government.

Shelby continues to lead GLI and the business community's work to advocate for important business interests in Greater Louisville. Congratulations, Shelby!



DANA MAYTON

OFFICE OF U.S. REP. JOHN YARMUTH

Dana Mayton has more than 30 years of experience as an attorney, public servant, and public policy and government relations professional. Serving in a variety of roles, she has spent her career working through political, governmental and legal processes to bring about positive policy change in numerous areas.

Mayton joined the office of U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth in August 2020. As district director, she oversees his Louisville office operations, represents the congressman in the district, and addresses local concerns and constituent needs.

Mayton began her career with the Arkansas General Assembly, working as a committee staffer and attorney. Since moving to Kentucky, she has served in various roles in and around government – with the Kentucky Revenue Cabinet as staff attorney, division director, commissioner of law and cabinet secretary, with the University of Louisville as associate vice president for governmental relations and special assistant to the president, and as interim university counsel, with the Legislative Research Commission as committee staff and budget policy advisor, and with the Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors as the director of membership services. From 2008 to 2011, she served as Kentucky’s deputy attorney general, the top appointed position in that office.

A native of Arkansas, Mayton is a graduate of Arkansas State University and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. She and her husband, Doyle, reside in Shelbyville. Their one child, Turner, and his wife, Sarah Beth, reside in Louisville.



HALEY MCCOY

KCTCS

Haley McCoy serves as executive director of economic development for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System in Versailles.

Prior to KCTCS, McCoy served an appointment in the secretary’s office of the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development and oversaw the 40 counties of the cabinet’s East Office during the administration of Gov. Steve Beshear. She also was appointed executive director of legislative and intergovernmental affairs for the Energy and Environment Cabinet during the administration of Gov. Matt Bevin.

Beshear and U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers appointed McCoy as a founding executive committee member of Shaping Our Appalachian Region, and she has served on numerous other boards, including the Christian Appalachian Project, the Kentucky Historical Society and the Kentucky Association for Economic Development.

McCoy holds an executive MBA from the University of Louisville and University of Kentucky joint executive MBA program. She also holds an M.A. in theological studies, with an emphasis in intercultural studies, from Lexington Theological Seminary, and a B.S. in mass communications from Union College in Barbourville.

She spent 12 years traveling the commonwealth portraying First Lt. Anna Mac Clarke, a WWII Women’s Army Corps leader, as part of the Kentucky Chautauqua Program. At the time she began, she was the youngest person at age 17 to ever serve in that role.

McCoy resides in Richmond with her husband, Brian, and two daughters.



2022 Notable Women in
Politics & Government

Amy Wickliffe
Partner

Libby Milligan
Principal

Congratulations!

These two notable women exemplify strong, thoughtful leadership and advocate with integrity, efficiency, and respect.

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PAULA MCCRANEY**LOUISVILLE METRO GOVERNMENT**

Paula McCraney represents over 30,000 residents in eastern Jefferson County on the Louisville Metro Government Council. She serves on the council's Budget, Government Oversight and Audit, and Public Safety committees, and she formerly chaired the Equity and Inclusion Committee.

McCraney co-chairs metro council's Women's Caucus and serves on the Contracting and Procurement Task Force, Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council, and the Juneteenth Jubilee Commission.

McCraney co-sponsored Breonna's Law, which outlawed no-knock warrants and regulated police body cameras. She sponsored the Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence ordinance, is known as the Civilian Review and Accountability Board architect, and she served on the search committee for Louisville's first inspector general for police oversight.

Her advocacy for affordable housing and participation on the ARP Housing Task Force resulted in the funding of \$40 million for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; \$32 million for permanent supportive housing with wrap-around services; \$7.5 million for renovation of affordable housing units; \$8 million for down-payment assistance and home repair.

McCraney earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Oklahoma State University, a master's degree in business from Webster University, and is a doctoral student at Spalding University. She is a graduate of Focus Louisville, Leadership Louisville, Bingham Fellows and Leadership Kentucky. In addition, she owns P Mc & Associates Consulting and The Traveling Boutique.

**SHANNON MEYER****KENTUCKY DISTRICT COURT**

Judge Shannon Meyer is district judge for the 6th Judicial District, Division III, which includes all of Daviess County. She was nominated by a bipartisan committee chaired by Chief Justice John Minton of the Kentucky Supreme Court and then appointed by Gov. Andy Beshear to fill the vacant seat.

Before her appointment, Meyer served 21 years as an assistant Daviess County Attorney, where her assignment concentrated on civil and felony prosecution of non-payment of child support and paternity establishment. Prior to and while serving as assistant county attorney, she maintained a private practice that included juvenile court guardian ad litem appointments, planning and zoning, child custody, and international and domestic adoptions.

In 2006, Meyer was a founding member of Impact 100-Owensboro, a women's philanthropic nonprofit organization, and has served as a board member and legal counsel to the board.

She is a graduate of Paintsville High School, attended Frankfort High School while serving the Kentucky Senate as a page, the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law, where she was on the Trademark Moot Court Team, served as the Student Government Association representative, was a member and notes editor on the Law Review, and served as law clerk to the Kentucky Court of Appeals to Judge William Knopf and Justice Lisabeth Hughes. Meyer has made Owensboro home since 1998 with her three children, Andrew, 22, Anna Lee, 21, and Molly, 16.

**LIBBY MILLIGAN****MCCARTHY STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS**

Libby Milligan has two decades of experience at both the federal and state levels of government. She is a principal at McCarthy Strategic Solutions, a bipartisan government affairs firm in Frankfort. The firm engages its strength of relationships and expertise to advocate with integrity, efficiency, and respect for its clients to achieve desired results.

With extensive experience in legislation and regulatory analysis, Milligan represents multiple clients within the health-care sector and presents related issues to the Kentucky General Assembly and Kentucky's executive branch.

Prior to joining McCarthy Strategic Solutions, she began her career as executive assistant to former Kentucky 6th District Congressman Ernie Fletcher in his district office. Following the 2003 general election, Milligan worked as an aide to Gov.-elect Ernie Fletcher during his transition. She then went on to serve as special assistant to the governor for administration and legislation under Fletcher. As a member of the governor's senior policy committee, Milligan developed a broad range of policy initiatives, policy analyses and coordinated legislation.

Milligan is a member of the Junior League of Louisville, where she previously served on the board and was involved in numerous community projects.

A graduate of the University of Kentucky, Milligan and her husband reside in Louisville, with their son.

**PATTI MINTER****KY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

State Rep. Patti Minter was elected in 2018 to represent Bowling Green's District 20 in the House of Representatives, making her the first woman from Warren County elected to the General Assembly.

As an educator and community advocate, Minter has focused her legislative work on protecting people with pre-existing health conditions, investing in public education, and protecting human rights and equal justice for all Kentuckians.

In the 2022 session, Minter served as the only Democratic legislator on free conference committees for tornado relief legislation and conservatorship reform.

In 2021, she successfully negotiated amendments to a major criminal-justice reform bill. And, as the primary co-sponsor of bipartisan insulin legislation, she has helped cap insulin costs.

Minter is a history professor at Western Kentucky University, where she has taught since 1993, and she served as faculty regent on the WKU Board of Regents from 2007-2014. She also served on the ACLU Kentucky Board of Directors from 2009-2018 and is a founding member of Bowling Green Fairness.

Minter has received numerous awards in her community, including the Bowling Green-Warren County Human Rights Commission's Women of Achievement Award in 2018. Minter received a B.A. in history from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and earned both her M.A. and Ph.D. in history from the University of Virginia. She lives in Bowling Green with her husband, Michael, and their child, Alex.



KATHY STEWART O'NAN
CITY OF MAYFIELD

Kathy Stewart O’Nan has served as Mayfield’s mayor since January 2019, and until the night of Dec. 10, 2021, the most difficult issue she had faced was guiding the city through the COVID-19 pandemic.

But on that evening, an EF-4 tornado swept through Mayfield, leaving hundreds of citizens homeless, demolishing the downtown central business district, including every city government building, and claiming the lives of 24 within Graves County.

Although no training exists to prepare one to lead a city through a crisis like this, O’Nan is confident that, with time and the extraordinary efforts by the strong people of Mayfield, her city will not only recover, but will emerge a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Prior to serving as mayor, O’Nan taught U.S. history and served as the chair of the Social Studies Department at Mayfield High School for over 20 years. During that time, she served on the Mayfield City Council for 16 years. She moved as a newlywed from Sturgis to Mayfield in 1976 and chose to remain to raise her two daughters following the death of her husband in 1987.

O’Nan is a graduate of Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee, and received a master’s degree from Murray State University. She serves on the boards of the Kentucky League of Cities, Graves County Economic Development, Purchase Area Development District, and is a member of the First United Methodist Church, where she was the children’s choir director for 42 years.



TARA PURVIS
BIG I KENTUCKY

Tara Purvis is president and CEO for Big I Kentucky, the oldest and largest insurance trade association in the state. On behalf of the organization that represents over 5,000 people, she leads all aspects of the association and serves as its primary legislative contact in Frankfort. She also represents the association in the Kentucky Insurance Council.

With insurance being highly regulated, she is constantly advocating for the industry. One of Purvis’ most notable political accomplishments was her fight against Louisville Metro Counsel’s 2019 proposal to increase the insurance tax. She collaborated with local insurance agents to organize a grassroots effort against the increase, spoke at multiple city council meetings and successfully defeated the proposal.

In 2015, Purvis was awarded the Kentucky Society of Association Executives Emerging Leader of the Year for her years of experience in associations, her leadership through service to KSAE, her own association and to her community.

Purvis currently serves on various local and national boards, including the Trusted Choice Board, Women Leaders in Insurance, Council for Best Practices, chair-elect for Kentucky Society of Association Executives, and the ECU Risk Management in Insurance Advisory Board. She is always looking for ways to improve her association and industry.

She graduated from Franklin College, where she played on the women’s golf team leading them to four Division II/III NCAA National Championship tournaments. Purvis lives in Frankfort with her husband, Bryan, and their son, Rex.



The National Association of Social Workers
and its 55 chapters
Congratulate Kentucky Chapter Executive Director
Brenda Rosen, MSW, CSW
as one of The Kentucky Gazette's
2022 Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government



SHERELLE ROBERTS**CONSULTANT**

Sherelle Roberts is an Emmy-winning journalist, political communicator, community advocate and social scientist. She operates a communications and political consulting firm based in Lexington, and she is finishing her Ph.D. in political science at the University of Kentucky.

Roberts believes an informed public is necessary to a properly functioning democracy and has dedicated her professional career to public communication.

She began her professional journalism career at WMDT-TV in Maryland. In 2007, she began reporting at WKYT-TV in Lexington. From 2010-2017 she served as the public information officer for both the Lexington Police Department and Department of Public Safety.

Roberts began her political journey in 2016 as participant in Emerge Kentucky. In 2018, she managed a Lexington mayoral campaign, and in 2019 she did communications work for The People's Campaign PAC.

Before starting her firm, she most recently served as the legislative liaison and executive director of communication and outreach for the Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet from 2020-2022.

Roberts is a dog mom, pizza aficionado and member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., an international service organization. Her future goals include completing her dissertation, educating the next generation of political minds as a professor, and working to support leaders who make our democracy stronger and more equitable for everyone.

**BRENDA ROSEN****NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF SOCIAL WORKERS**

Brenda Rosen, MSW, CSW, ACHP-SW, is the executive director of the Kentucky Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. NASW-KY is one of 55 chapters in the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world.

Rosen has spent more than four decades as a social worker in medical settings, hospice, bereavement and pediatric oncology. She has taught in the University of Kentucky College of Social Work for 10 years, receiving two A Teacher Who Made a Difference awards from the UK College of Education.

Rosen credits NASW's Kentucky Chapter board of directors, members, social workers and students across the state as inspiration for the collaborative efforts to engage in, educate

and empower advocacy efforts for social justice policies. Rosen has testified on numerous issues and shares that her decades of work with hospice motivates her because "life is not a dress rehearsal." She is proud the Kentucky chapter was engaged in advocacy with state social workers and Gov. Andy Beshear to improve salaries for the state's social workers.

Rosen has a bachelor of social work from the UK College of Social Work and a master of social work from the University of Alabama.

She serves on the Child Justice Task Force. She has volunteered and served on boards with numerous nonprofits and animal charities across her career.

Rosen and her husband live in Lexington and are proud parents of a son and daughter.



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JENA SCOTT**GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES**

Jena Scott is an associate at Government Strategies, an established government affairs firm in Frankfort.

She has a diverse professional background with experience in communications, public policy and political strategy.

At Government Strategies, she works with clients to advocate on their behalf with members of the General Assembly, and she focuses on advocacy communications and strategy to capitalize on client messaging and storytelling.

Scott began her professional career working in political strategy for statewide political campaigns, with her first political role in U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's 2014 campaign. She most recently served as the communications manager for the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers and previously held the deputy communications director role for the Kentucky Senate majority caucus from 2015-2018.

Her love of communications, political strategy and policymaking have motivated Scott to continue her career in the world of politics and policy. Much of her work focuses on business and nonprofit issues, ensuring Kentucky continues to be competitive for businesses and supportive of the many nonprofits throughout the commonwealth that serve our most vulnerable.

Scott graduated from Bellarmine University with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies with a focus on public policy. She lives on her family farm in Paris, along with her husband, Wesley, and daughter, Patterson, their horses, and (too) many rescued pets.

**JENNIFER SCHWARTZ SCUTCHFIELD****OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

Jennifer Schwartz Scutchfield currently serves as assistant secretary of state and general counsel for Michael G. Adams, Kentucky's Secretary of State.

Scutchfield was appointed to the position Jan. 6, 2020. By statute, in the absence or disability of the secretary of state, she may conduct the business of the office.

Prior to her appointment, she served as assistant director and general counsel for the Kentucky Board of Elections. She previously was the 7th District councilmember in Lexington and was in private law practice.

Scutchfield has worked for nonprofits and educational institutions, and has served as an assistant county attorney.

Outside of employment, she has volunteered with Walk to End Alzheimer's, several neighborhood associations, multiple Lexington-Fayette County Urban County Government boards, Girl Scouts, USTA, and served as PTA president for three consecutive years.

Scutchfield attended the University of Kentucky, where she received both her bachelor of arts in psychology and juris doctorate. She was proud to be included in the Leadership Kentucky Class of 2011. She lives in Lexington with her husband of almost 25 years, Alex. They are parents to Cassie and Ethan. When not working or volunteering, you will find Scutchfield on the tennis court or traveling.

**KATE SHANKS****KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Kate Shanks is senior vice president of public affairs for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the state's largest business association. She oversees the chamber's advocacy work, including developing and advocating for the business community's state and federal legislative agendas, policy research and design, and member engagement.

In 2022, she led the chamber's advocacy efforts to modernize Kentucky's tax code for growth, reform the unemployment insurance system to support re-employment, and address child-care cost challenges. During the 2021 legislative session, she worked to ensure COVID-19 liability protections for employers and for unemployment insurance tax relief.

As the daughter of a small business owner, she understands the importance of small business in Kentucky and started Small Business Day at the Capitol to connect business leaders and local chambers of commerce with policymakers.

Shanks is a lifelong resident of Kentucky. She earned a bachelor's degree in natural resource conservation and management, and a master of public administration degree from the Martin School for Public Policy and Administration at the University of Kentucky, where she serves on the Board of Visitors. She is a member of the 2017 Leadership Kentucky class. Before joining the chamber, Shanks spent over a decade working for state agencies in communications, policy analysis, and legislative affairs, predominately in the energy and environment field.

She lives in Frankfort with her husband, Greg, and two sons, Tyler and Brendan.

**SHANNON SMITH****AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**

Shannon Smith, the state government relations director for the American Heart Association in Kentucky, is responsible for driving the association's public policy agenda at the state and local level, while also working to support the association's federal priorities.

Smith's advocacy efforts mainly focus on critical public-health issues, such as reducing tobacco use, improving access to healthy foods, setting early care and education standards, ensuring safe and equitable complete streets for all users, and passing comprehensive smoke-free policies to promote safe and healthy work environments.

She was appointed by the governor to serve on the state Board for Alcohol and Substance Abuse, and is co-founder of FEED – Fayette Eating, Education and Delivery Backpack Program, a nonprofit extending financial resources and volunteer support to Fayette County Public Schools by providing weekend bags of food to children in need.

Smith earned a bachelor of science degree in communications and biology from the University of Pikeville, and resides in Lexington with her husband, Seth, and daughters, Alexandra and Adelynn.



ASHLEY SNIDER IUE-CWA

Ashley Snider has spent her career fighting alongside and for working families. She is a proud, third-generation union member of IUE-CWA Local 83761, which is the bargaining unit for General Electric Appliance Park in Louisville.

Her grandfather helped start the union there back in the 1950s. Both he and her father held union executive board positions for IUE during their employment at GE. Snider grew up with labor and watched as her family fought for workers on a daily basis, and she has deep respect for the power of collective action.

Through work at her local, as a trustee for the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council, vice president of the Kentucky AFL-CIO and the nationwide political action lead at IUE-CWA, she has over a decade of organizing experience, working with union members throughout the region.

She is passionate about getting more members civically engaged and bringing young workers into the labor movement. Politicians must be held accountable to the working people they are sworn to serve – not corporations.

When she's not fighting in the labor movement, you can find her taking care of her four children with her fiancée, Mark, in Shelbyville.



SHELBY WILLIAMS SOMERVELL

GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.

Shelby Somervell serves as the vice president of government affairs and communications for Greater Louisville Inc., the regional chamber of commerce, which represents more than 1,800 businesses in the 15-county region. She serves as policy advisor to the CEO and board of directors, oversees the GLI advocacy and communications teams, and represents GLI on federal, state and local legislative matters.

Somervell came to GLI with extensive knowledge of tax policy from her time as government affairs director for the Kentucky Society of CPAs. During her time at KyCPA, she led efforts to pass time-sensitive COVID-related legislation to create a fix for the Paycheck Protection Program and allow businesses to deduct eligible expenses from their taxes at the state level. She also worked to extend tax deadlines and waive penalties and interest for taxpayers.

She began her career as a constituent services representative for the U.S. House of Representatives in Kentucky's 6th Congressional District, where she worked with several federal agencies, including the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the Social Security Administration. She was then promoted to director of economic development. Somervell is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, where she obtained her bachelor of arts degree in international relations. A native of Woodford County, Somervell resides in Louisville with her husband, Michael, and dog, Frank.



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HOLLIE SPADE

AT&T

Hollie Spade currently serves as director of external affairs for AT&T Kentucky. She is responsible for promoting AT&T's legislative agenda at the state and local level and with providing government officials insight into the telecom industry.

Prior to moving to AT&T, Spade served as chief of staff and legislative liaison at the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development. Spade started at the cabinet as general counsel before becoming chief of staff. In 2015, she left state government to join AT&T.

Spade started her career as an attorney for American General Finance in Evansville, Indiana and moved to Frankfort to join her husband, Alan, in 1994.

In Frankfort, Spade worked as an associate attorney and later a partner at Hazelrigg and Cox, serving state government clients as part of a diverse general practice. She was the first female attorney hired at the firm.

Spade currently is serving on the Kentucky CASA Network Board of Directors and the JAG Kentucky Board of Directors. She also serves on the boards of the Frankfort Area Chamber of Commerce, Scott County United, and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

Spade has been featured as one of Kentucky's Top Women in Business by The Lane Report.

She currently lives in Louisville. She and Alan have two grown children, Yulie Spade, a student at Georgetown College, and Bailey Spade, a student at University of Miami Law School, and a lovable dog named Max.



CRYSTAL STALEY

OFFICE OF GOV. ANDY BESHEAR

Crystal Staley is the communications director for Gov. Andy Beshear, where she works with a talented team in the Office of the Governor and across the executive branch's 12 cabinets to keep Kentuckians informed about how Beshear and Team Kentucky are working to grow the state's economy and build a better Kentucky for every family.

Staley was appointed by the governor in December 2019 and has since held the communications post through some of the most challenging times in Kentucky history, which involved managing communications through a once-in-a-century pandemic and multiple natural disasters, including devastating floods, ice storms and the deadliest tornadoes ever seen in the commonwealth.

During her 15 years of government experience, she spent four years helping lead communications efforts in the Office of the Attorney General under then-Attorney General Andy Beshear. She also spent eight years working in an executive branch cabinet, guiding communications and legislative efforts.

Staley graduated magna cum laude with a double major in government and public relations and marketing and organizational communications from Morehead State University. She earned a master of public administration degree, with an emphasis in health policy and community development, from the University of Kentucky's Martin School of Public Policy.



PATRICIA SUMME

KENTUCKY CIRCUIT COURT

Patricia M. Summe is the general jurisdiction circuit judge for Kentucky's 16th Judicial Circuit.

Summe graduated from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1975 with a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a minor in theology. She attended Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in the evenings and graduated in 1979. She was in private practice with Summe & Summe for 15 years, practicing in the areas of real estate, zoning, municipal, probate, personal injury and family law.

She prosecuted for Kenton County in 1993 and 1994, and in 1994 was the first woman elected to the Kenton Circuit Court bench.

Summe currently serves as chief circuit judge and is the president of the Circuit Judges Association. She is on the board of the Chase Inn of Court, and she served on local and state bar committees and various groups that promote the legal profession, including participating in these organizations as a speaker.

Summe has been a member and president of several charities sponsored by educational, faith, women and children's organizations. She received the Kentucky Post's Woman of the Year award in 1998, the Martin Luther King Award from the local chapter of the NAACP in 2003, the Chase Alumni Association's Exceptional Service Award in 2006, and the Outstanding Judge Award from the Kentucky Bar Association in 2009.

Summe is a member of large and very community-involved Northern Kentucky family.



NANCY TATE

KY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

State Rep. Nancy Tate serves House District 27, which is Meade County and a portion of Hardin County. She is a successful businesswoman, Kentucky native and fiscal conservative.

Tate believes in building opportunities within local communities. She plays an active role serving on several boards, including Kentucky Right to Life, United Way of Central Kentucky, and as president of the Meade-Breck Chapter of Right to Life.

Recently, she retired after a 30-year career in information technology with UPS.

Tate is an outspoken advocate for pro-life issues. She co-chairs the legislature's Pro-Life Caucus and is a lifelong advocate and active volunteer within the pro-life community. She has sponsored and supported numerous pro-life bills, notably 2022 Regular Session's House Bill 3, the Humanity in Healthcare Act, prohibiting an abortion when the gestational age is 15 weeks or older and addressing several aspects of abortion, such as access to abortion-inducing drugs. She is also responsible for the state's Safe Haven Baby Box legislation, which allows a parent in crisis to safely, securely and anonymously surrender an infant if they are unable to provide care.

Tate holds a bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Mid-Continent University, and a master of arts degree in project management from George Washington University. She lives in Brandenburg.



ROBBIN MORRISON TAYLOR

OFFICE OF US SEN. MITCH MCCONNELL

Robbin Morrison Taylor is the state director for U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and is responsible for managing his state operation, which includes six offices located throughout the commonwealth.

Taylor has spent more than 30 years in government relations and public policy. She began her career in 1990 as an intern in McConnell's press office and served as his South Central Kentucky field representative until 2000. She then spent more than 18 years working on behalf of Western Kentucky University in Frankfort and in Washington D.C., and was WKU's vice president for public affairs for a decade. From 2018 to 2020, Taylor worked as a principal at McCarthy Strategic Solutions in Frankfort, where she represented clients in the health-care, education, business and economic development sectors.

In 2015, Taylor received the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce Athena Award for outstanding leadership in the community and for her efforts to support women in business. She is a past chair of both the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the Bowling Green Economic Development Authority. She is a 1997 graduate of Leadership Bowling Green, a recipient of the Bart Hagerman Leadership Award, and she is a 2007 graduate of Leadership Kentucky.

Taylor earned her master's in public administration and her bachelor of arts degrees from WKU. She resides in Prospect with her husband, Joe.



KATRINA THOMPSON

FEEDING KENTUCKY

Katrina Thompson joined Feeding Kentucky in January 2021 as the organization's executive director.

Thompson is an accomplished executive, with more than 20 years' experience in the psychiatric, mental health, substance use disorder, legislative advocacy, and maternal-and-child-health fields.

Feeding Kentucky's seven member food banks serve all 120 Kentucky counties in partnership with a network of more than 800 local food pantries and shelters.

The organization reaches an estimated 1 in 7 of all Kentuckians each year. Last year, the member food banks distributed 96 million pounds of food and grocery products, which was enough to supply 79 million meals for our struggling neighbors.

Thompson came to Feeding Kentucky from the March of Dimes Organization – Kentucky and West Virginia. There, she served in several roles, including as the executive director for maternal and child health, and advocacy and government affairs. Her LinkedIn profile notes she worked at March of Dimes for more than 24 years.

She holds a bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of the Cumberland and a master of social work degree from the University of Kentucky.



SARAH VAN WALLAGHEN

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF KENTUCKY

Sarah Van Wallaghen serves as the Republican Party of Kentucky's executive director and has been a pivotal asset to the growth of the party statewide. Van Wallaghen has played an instrumental role advocating for women in elected positions throughout state government.

During her tenure, Republicans have garnered historic gains, including flipping control of the State House of Representatives to Republican control for the first time since 1921, winning all constitutional offices in 2015, growing the supermajority in the state Senate, and holding all Republican U.S. Congressional seats in the last several election cycles.

Before becoming executive director, Van Wallaghen served as the party's deputy executive director and as its finance director. Prior to joining the party, Van Wallaghen worked on now-U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney's presidential campaign, and she served in the offices of U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie in Washington D.C. and state Sen. Mike Wilson in Frankfort.

Van Wallaghen is a 2012 graduate of the University of Kentucky, where she graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in broadcast journalism and political science.

A Glasgow native, Sarah now lives in Louisville with her husband, Nick, and son, Brooks.



AMY WICKLIFFE

MCCARTHY STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS

Amy Wickliffe is a partner at McCarthy Strategic Solutions, bringing nearly 20 years of political and lobbying experience to the McCarthy Strategic Solutions team.

Wickliffe has been lobbying the Kentucky General Assembly since 2005 and previously served as chief of staff to Kentucky first lady Glenna Fletcher, as statewide finance director for Gov. Ernie Fletcher, and she played key roles in various other political campaigns throughout her career.

Wickliffe's most valued asset is her ability to keep organizations focused, develop a message and manage coalitions. With this expertise, she has been successful in leading some of the state's most well-known issue campaigns, including the passage of House Bill 2, the state's largest workers' compensation reform since the 1990s, in the Kentucky General Assembly's 2018 regular session, and a constitutional amendment securing rights for victims of crime known as Marsy's Law. For her work on Marsy's Law, Wickliffe received an Excellence in Advocacy award from Professional Women in Advocacy.

Wickliffe served as finance chair for the Republican Party of Kentucky in 2016 and currently serves on the Midway University Board of Trustees and the Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky board. She was past chair of Dress for Success Lexington, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged women.

She holds a B.A. in psychology from Transylvania University and a MBA from Midway University. Wickliffe lives in Lexington.



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