

The Kentucky Gazette's
2024 NOTABLE WOMEN
IN KENTUCKY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT



**POWERFUL WOMEN
TRANSFORM THE WORLD
OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
**NOTABLE
WOMEN**
OF OUR TEAM

REBECCA
HARTSOUGH

JULIE
BABBAGE

SARAH
WOOD



A Note from the Publisher

Dear Readers,

In the five years we have been publishing "Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government," you all have helped us celebrate more than 200 Kentucky women who have made their marks in the commonwealth's public affairs. Thank you.

This year for the first time, we received a posthumous nomination for a Notable Woman. Judy Taylor, who passed away in October 2023, was the first female contract lobbyist in Kentucky. She began her lobbying career in 1976 as a volunteer for the Kentucky Association of Older Persons, then she moved on to represent a number of clients over the years she spent in Frankfort.

Her obituary, which was submitted as her nomination, sums up Judy as a "mighty" person who mightily embraced her faith, mightily loved her family, mightily watched over her clients (especially Keeneland), mightily embraced the role

of Capitol Mother and Grandmother, and mightily embraced life and all that was good.

Indeed, women like Judy were trailblazers for many of us.

Obviously, a lot of things have changed since 1976.

Today, scores of women make up the lobbying ranks in Frankfort, where they meet with other women who have been elected to office or appointed to top posts.

Forty-eight years ago, two state senators were women – Georgia Powers and Daisy Thaler. Six representatives were women – Gerta Bendl, Glenna Bevins, Mae Street Kidd, Charlotte McGill, Dottie Priddy, and Mary Ann Tobin.

Today, nine women serve in the Kentucky Senate and 34 in the Kentucky House.

In 1976, Lt. Gov. Thelma Stovall was the state's second-in-command, and two other women had been elected to statewide office: Frances Jones Mills was Kentucky treasurer in 1976, and Martha Layne Collins was clerk of the Court of Appeals, a post that no longer exists as a statewide elected position.

Today, two constitutional officers are women, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman and Auditor of Public Accounts Allison Ball.

In 1976, the year the Kentucky Supreme Court was established, no women served as justices. Today, the high court has the national distinction of having a majority of women on the seven-member bench, including Chief Justice Debra Hembree Lambert.

And 48 years ago, no women served as secretaries of executive branch cabinets. Today, women lead three of the state's 11 cabinets: Mary Elizabeth Bailey in Personnel, Rebecca Goodman in Energy and Environment, and Holly Johnson in Finance and Administration.

Like Judy Taylor and the women leaders of years past, it could be said the women in these pages are mighty, too, in advancing their causes to make the commonwealth a better place.

Thank you for reading The Kentucky Gazette.

Laura Cullen Glasscock
Publisher and Editor

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EMILY J. ARNZEN**KENTON COUNTY**

Emily J. Arnzen is an assistant commonwealth's attorney in the 16th Judicial Circuit in Kenton County, and she will proudly tell you she went to law school because she grew up watching too much "Law and Order."

Arnzen graduated from Miami University in 2010 with a psychology degree, then attended the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

In November 2013, she was hired by Commonwealth's Attorney Rob Sanders as an assistant commonwealth's attorney. She began her career with a general prosecution caseload, and since 2014, she's been prosecuting most of Kenton County's child pornography offenses.

In 2022, she founded Kenton County's E-Crimes Task Force, a group of police and prosecutors trained in internet crime and digital evidence. Arnzen was instrumental in drafting and lobbying for legislation to outlaw child-sized sex dolls and AI-generated child sexual-assault material, and to make all sex crimes violent offenses in Kentucky – all of which passed the Kentucky General Assembly in 2024.

In 2022, the Kentucky Commonwealth's Attorneys Association honored Arnzen with the Outstanding Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Award.

Arnzen coaches the mock trial team and teaches at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She also serves on the board for the NKY Children's Advocacy Center. She lives in Kenton County with her husband, a police officer, and their rescue animals. To deal with the stress of their professions, they enjoy spending time at Walt Disney World.

**CHLOE ATWATER****KENTUCKY EQUAL JUSTICE CENTER**

Chloe Atwater is the health justice attorney at Kentucky Equal Justice Center, a nonprofit poverty law firm and advocacy organization.

Through impact litigation, advocacy, and lobbying, Atwater and her colleagues are committed to achieving a Kentucky in which income and identity no longer predict health-care access or outcomes. The White House recently recognized Atwater's work and invited her to an on-site convening on medical debt. Atwater currently serves on the board of directors for the Kentuckiana Health Collaborative, and volunteers with a mentorship program for University of Kentucky pre-law students.

Prior to her work at KEJC, she served as a policy associate at the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, and she began her legal career as a staff attorney in state circuit court. Before law school, she was a campaign organizer in multiple state and federal races.

Atwater is a Kentucky native, raised in the Appalachian foothills in Berea. The proud product of 20 years of Kentucky public educational institutions, she graduated from the University of Kentucky twice: first, with her B.A. in political science and minors in French and philosophy in 2017, and second, with her law degree in 2020.

Tethered to the community by her deep commitment to the Kentucky Wildcats, Atwater lives in Lexington with her wife, Dr. Tenley McKee, and their two dogs, Banjo and Hattie.

**JULIE BABBAGE****BABBAGE COFOUNDER**

Julie Babbage is recognized for her transformative leadership, a style that is results-driven and positive. She leads strategic priorities and services for Babbage Cofounder, a 26-year-old advocacy firm that continues to grow under a new generation of leadership.

Her work centers on driving consensus among leaders in Kentucky, Washington D.C., and across the U.S.

Babbage is a mentor and trusted colleague with a record of developing individual advocates and national coalitions. With her team at Babbage Cofounder, she manages key aspects of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition.

Since taking the role as executive director, she has worked with an exceptional board of directors and a growing staff to champion notable successes with both the Trump and Biden administrations, in federal court, and winning new laws in key states. She is making a mark nationally as well as in Kentucky as a leading advocate in health-care action.

During Kentucky's recent legislative session, Babbage supported important causes, lobbying for health, technology, and workforce advancements. She currently oversees projects with an angle toward making Kentucky, with its existing and developing talent, secure and competitive in artificial intelligence.

Babbage guides the firm and touches each industry within the wide collection of company causes.

**ALLISON BALL****KENTUCKY AUDITOR'S OFFICE**

Allison Ball is the 48th auditor of public accounts for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Prior to being elected auditor in 2023, Ball served two terms as Kentucky state treasurer, elected in 2015 and re-elected in 2019. Before that, she spent four years as assistant Floyd County attorney, prosecuting child-abuse and juvenile-delinquency cases. When she first took office, Ball was the youngest statewide elected official in the country.

Ball has a rich Kentucky history: Her family has been in Eastern Kentucky since the 1790s, and she holds a degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law.

As the state treasurer, she returned more unclaimed property than any treasurer in state history, promoted transparency, and established a savings and investment program for people with disabilities.

She also has been a national leader for improved financial literacy. Ball established the Kentucky Financial Empowerment Commission, and she successfully advocated for a financial-literacy requirement for high school graduation. In 2018, she became the first Kentuckian to serve as national chair of the State Financial Officers Foundation, an organization that solves financial issues affecting states across the country.

A Floyd County native, Ball and her husband, Dr. Asa James Swan, have two children, Levi and Marigold. Upon the birth of her son, she was the first Kentucky constitutional officer to give birth while in office.



SARA BARNES

KENTUCKY DISTILLERS' ASSOCIATION

Sara Barnes is the director of Industry Responsibility and Sustainability for the Kentucky Distillers' Association, the Worldwide Voice of Bourbon. The first and only organization in the commonwealth to advocate for Kentucky Bourbon and distilled spirits at local, state, federal, and international levels. Its diverse and growing membership produces the overwhelming majority of the world's bourbon, from historic, global brands to emerging boutique distilleries that are crafting the next generation of the commonwealth's signature industry.

The KDA is involved in governmental and regulatory advocacy, media and public relations, internal trade development, technical assistance, economic development support, global networking, legal defense, strategic marketing initiatives, and innovative tourism experiences through the KDA's Kentucky Bourbon Trail adventure.

Prior to joining KDA, Barnes worked with at Boone County Distilling in Northern Kentucky and as managing director for Bourbon Women.

Originally from Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, Barnes moved to Kentucky almost a decade ago. She earned a bachelor's degree in hospitality from the University of South Carolina in 2007.



CATHY BELL

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF KENTUCKY

Catherine "Cathy" Bell has been a pivotal force in Kentucky politics for over three decades. Starting her career in 1986 with the Republican Party of Kentucky, she has held numerous key roles, including executive director and finance director. She currently is treasurer for the Republican Party of Kentucky.

Bell's leadership was instrumental in flipping the majority in both the Kentucky Senate and the House of Representatives, shaping the state's political landscape for years to come. Her dedication to the party's success is also reflected in her work on grassroots efforts.

In 1986, Kentucky's voter registration stood at 29% Republican and 71% Democratic. Through years of strategic outreach and mobilization, she saw voter registration flip, with Republicans now leading, marking a significant shift in the state's political dynamics.

U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, a long-time friend and ally, once remarked that Cathy Bell has kept the lights on for the Republican Party of Kentucky. This quote underscores Bell's role in ensuring the party's vitality and long-term success.

Her contributions to both the party's financial stability and its strategic operations cannot be overstated. Bell's legacy is not just in her professional roles but also in her lasting impact on Kentucky's political system.

As she continues to serve, she remains a respected leader who has shaped the state's Republican Party and Kentucky politics as a whole.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Lauren S. Hogan

2024 NOTABLE WOMAN



AGC
KENTUCKY CHAPTER
THE CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION



ANGELA BILLINGS**LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION**

Angela Billings, a U.S. Air Force veteran, held many high-profile positions, including in Germany, Korea, and Afghanistan and as senior Air Force representative in New York City.

As an Air Force spokesperson for over 20 years, Billings prepared executives for media interviews and congressional testimony, and she served as media chief for NATO's International Security Assistance Force.

Billings provided operational updates to military and civilian leaders from the 32 contributing nations in London in 2007.

She managed an international team and provided daily press updates in an active war zone, and she provided leadership and communication training to Republic of Korea officers in Seoul. She also was instrumental in the German Ministry of Finance infusing 25 million euros into stalled construction on the Kaiserslautern Military Community Center and managed the public elements in the aftermath, which was exposed on the CBS News program "60 Minutes."

She is currently director of communication for the Kentucky Senate majority and was one of The Kentucky Gazette's 2023 "Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government."

She started her business, The Virago Circle, in October 2020 and speaks to leaders about effective crisis management. Her first book is "Command the Crisis: Navigate Chaos with Battle-Tested Public Relations and Communication Strategies."

Billings lives in Louisville with her husband, Greg, and daughters, Annaliese and Isabel.

**SARAH BISHOP****KENTUCKY AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION**

Sarah Bishop is the vice president of legislative affairs for the Kentucky Automobile Dealers Association, a Frankfort-based trade association representing Kentucky's new and used car dealers. Formed in 1938, KADA works to protect the interests of dealerships in front of the Kentucky General Assembly and state regulatory agencies.

Bishop is an experienced legal adviser and litigator who has practiced law since 2007. She has advised government and private entities with respect to complex legal and legislative issues, and she is able to navigate the ever-changing regulatory environment to identify and implement the strategies that benefit Kentucky automobile dealers and their businesses.

Her expertise in compliance and contracts allows her to offer guidance on best practices and – when necessary – minimizing liability.

Prior to joining KADA, Bishop was a member of a large regional law firm, where she specialized in litigation, government relations, and auto dealer services.

**AMANDA MAYS BLEDSOE****KENTUCKY SENATE**

State Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe represents the 12th Senate District.

She serves as Appropriations and Revenue vice chair and as co-chair of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force, the Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee, and the Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity, among other assignments.

Bledsoe served on Lexington city council for District 10 for eight years, including four years as chair of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee.

She previously served as senior program manager and senior policy analyst for the Council of State Governments. Additionally, she has been an adjunct faculty member at Midway College (now University) and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, where her focus was homeland security and emergency management.

Bledsoe is passionate about serving her community. She serves on the board of the Kentucky Blood Center and previously served on boards of the Salvation Army of the Bluegrass and Natalie's Sisters, among others. She also worked to support fathers and daughters by co-founding Her Knight Dance, which raises money for parenting initiatives.

She holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and classical studies from Hillsdale College, and she earned a master's degree from the University of Kentucky Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce. Bledsoe lives in Lexington with her husband, Todd, and their son and daughter, Mays and Annabeth.

**CATRENA BOWMAN****NORTHERN KENTUCKY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION**

Catrena Bowman has worked in non-profit leadership for over 25 years. She is the executive director of Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission.

In just three years, Bowman strategically grew the commission's budget from \$13 million to \$26 million. She has developed key relationships with the business community and helped improve the visibility of the agency. NKCAC now is seen as a leading nonprofit in the Northern Kentucky region that specializes in creating affordable housing, providing educational and job placement assistance to young adults and single parents, as well as providing seniors with opportunities to return to the workforce and school.

She is board chair for Community Action Kentucky, the state association for community action agencies, and is board chair for the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies. Her leadership helps guide the policy position for the state and regional Community Action agencies.

She has a bachelor of science degree in family studies and a master of public administration from the University of Kentucky.

In addition, Bowman is the owner of Inspired Fashion boutique in Covington. Her motto is, "When you look good, you feel good." She has worked in fashion for over 15 years, providing individual style sessions, a radio show, workshops, and group sip 'n shops.

She is a charismatic, dynamic leader, emcee and speaker who is committed to ending the cycle of poverty by empowering women.



DEANNA BRANGERS

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF KENTUCKY

DeAnna Brangers has served as vice chair of the Republican Party of Kentucky since 2012. She brings over 25 years of experience in Republican politics, including a decade as the 3rd Congressional District chair.

Brangers chairs the state party's Rules Committee and advises emerging candidates. She has become a fixture of the Republican National Convention, having attended seven presidential conventions.

In addition, Brangers served six years on the Kentucky Board of Elections and eight years with the Jefferson County Board of Elections, contributing notably during the 2020 elections when election processes were changed due to COVID. She has worked with stakeholders statewide to advance election reforms for greater security and accessibility, enjoying her role in educating citizens on Kentucky's electoral process.

A delegate in 1999 for the American Council of Young Political Leaders, she traveled to Romania, fostering life-long international connections. She values mentoring young politicians and fostering appreciation for the American government.

Service drives Brangers. She was elected in 2019 as the first female chair of Serve KY and co-founded the Jefferson County Build-A-Bed project, providing beds for over 1,000 children. She also has volunteered extensively with the Children's Hospital Foundation.

A proud mother of four and grandmother, Brangers finds joy in gardening, family time, and a good book. She is married to Jason Brangers, a partner at Cerity Partners.



RHONDA CALDWELL

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION
OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Dr. Rhonda Caldwell is the chief executive officer of the Kentucky Association of School Administrators. She is known as a visionary leader who propelled the association to remarkable growth. As KASA's first female director, she takes immense pride in spearheading Kentucky Women in Education Leadership, along with other programs.

A staunch advocate for public education, Caldwell's commitment is evident through her leadership of the Coalition to Sustain the Education Profession.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Midway College (now University), an MBA from Campbellsville University, and a doctorate in education leadership from Northern Kentucky University. In addition, she earned the Certified Association Executive credential, a distinction held by only 5% of nonprofit leaders nationwide. She also completed Cornell University's Executive Women in Leadership program, among others. Her unwavering commitment to her personal values is rooted in faith and inspired by Hebrews 11:1.

She serves as a guest speaker and facilitator, and she serves on the Kentucky Purple Star Award Advisory Board, the Kentucky Coalition for Healthy Children Steering Committee, and several state and national groups. Beyond her professional achievements, Caldwell is an avid hiker in other countries, such as sections of the Great Wall of China and Peru's Machu Picchu. As a cancer survivor since 2010, Caldwell cherishes each new day.



Congratulations!
Katy Walker

PUBLIC AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATOR

The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky celebrates Katy Walker being named a 2024 Notable Woman in Kentucky Politics and Government.



SLOANE SKINNER CARLOUGH DICKINSON WRIGHT

Sloane Skinner Carlough is an attorney at Dickinson Wright in Lexington, where she provides counsel in campaign finance and election law, government ethics, lobbying compliance, pay-to-play compliance, and tax-exempt organizations. She helps officeholders, candidates, political committees, corporations, nonprofits, and donors navigate the complex laws governing the political and campaign processes.

She worked for several years in Washington D.C., where she held various positions. Most recently she worked for the vice chair of the Federal Election Commission. She also served as the deputy general counsel at the National Republican Congressional Committee, a political committee devoted to increasing the number of Republicans in the U.S. House of Representatives.

At the NRCC, she advised members of Congress and candidates on campaign finance and ethics rules. Carlough also has worked for the Republican National Committee and the Republican Governors Association.

She received her juris doctorate from the University of Kentucky's J. David Rosenberg College of Law in 2016 and received her bachelor's degree from Lee University, where she graduated magna cum laude and was an All-American golfer.

Carlough was raised in Nicholasville, where she resides with her husband, Chadwick, and their two children. She enjoys gardening, golfing, cooking, and of course, politics.



TABATHA CLEMONS KENTUCKY COUNTY CLERK'S ASSOCIATION

Tabatha Clemons was elected to her third term as Grant County clerk in 2022 and is president of the Kentucky County Clerk's Association. She currently serves as a board member of the Leasing Trust Program and Finance Corp. for the Kentucky Association of Counties.

Clemons was invited to join the Election Trust Leadership Circle organized by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Agora Institute at Johns Hopkins University.

She aided in securing historic funding of \$50 million from the Kentucky General Assembly for all 120 counties for land records and elections. Her strength of building partnerships with legislators and key stakeholders is a vital part of recent modernization laws in all aspects of the county clerks' offices.

Clemons is a sixth-generation Grant countian. A graduate of Northern Kentucky University, she was a media account executive. Clemons returned home for work at the city of Williamstown and then advanced to a position with the Grant County Fiscal Court.

Since being sworn in as county clerk in 2015, office revenues have grown by over \$9 million annually. She, along with her deputies, focus on working with local car dealerships.

She and her husband, Joe, live on their farm in Stewartsville, with their 11-year-old son, Jeffrey, and 8-year-old daughter, Madalynn. When not attending youth sporting events, they love exploring Kentucky and enjoy time on the farm with pets, Buddy and Callie.



AMY CLOUD KENTUCKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES

Amy Cloud serves as the executive director of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives, a role she has held since July 2016. With a wealth of experience from her previous leadership positions at local chambers in Tennessee and Kentucky, Cloud is strategically positioned to drive change at the state level.

Over the past 17 years, she has been dedicated to fostering growth of the local business community. Her expertise as a strategic planner and convener allows her to work closely with chambers throughout the region, where she champions grassroots advocacy and professional development.

Cloud holds a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Kentucky, complemented by a minor in marketing and graphic design. Earning the Certified Chamber Executive designation in 2022 from the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives places her among 4% of chamber executives nationwide who hold this credential. She was recognized as one of the Women of Note by the Lane Report in 2020 and nominated for the Bluegrass Alliance for Women Impact Award. Additionally, she received the Kentucky Chamber Executive of the Year award from KCCE in 2014.

Beyond her professional achievements, she is a devoted wife and the mother of two young adults. In her spare time, she finds joy in cooking, outdoor adventures, and life on the farm with her husband, where they raise horses, dogs, cows, and sheep.



MADDIE DAILY PIPER | SMITH

Maddie Daily brings a broad range of experience to Piper | Smith through her government relations work in both public and private sectors in Kentucky and in Washington D.C.

Daily served as a legislative intern in the U.S. Congress before interning at McBrayer, a law firm in Lexington. She also worked as a deputy field organizer, marketing and outreach graduate assistant for the University of Louisville, policy analyst for a lobbying firm, and as a global compliance coordinator for Sazerac Company.

With Piper | Smith, a Lexington-based boutique firm, Maddie helps bridge clients to the legislative process, providing the tools for impactful advocacy. She has a reputation for learning fast and outworking the field. Her passion for policy and improving the lives of those around her is evident in her work.

She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Kentucky, where she graduated cum laude. She also holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Louisville. A 2016 graduate of Oldham County High School, Daily is originally from La Grange and currently resides in Carrollton with her husband and two dogs, Kaiser and Nyx.



MORGAN EAVES

KENTUCKY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Morgan Eaves is the executive director of the Kentucky Democratic Party, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the party and managing its finance, communications, operations, political, and data departments.

She first joined the KDP in January 2024, after advising a global nonprofit on education policy, working with officials in 10 states to advocate for improved policy solutions for teachers, students, and families.

Eaves previously served in Gov. Andy Beshear's administration as director of legislative affairs for the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet. She executed the cabinet's legislative agenda, working on a wide range of policy issues, from workers' compensation to K-12 education. Eaves also served as deputy director of legislative services for Beshear, developing a comprehensive legislative agenda and communications strategy. She managed a diverse group of legislative liaisons, and she actively lobbied policymakers and stakeholder groups to ensure enacted policies protect the interests of all Kentuckians.

Eaves was a member of the Richmond City Commission from 2016 to 2018. For more than six years, she practiced contract and construction law at Eaves Olds Bohannon & Floyd, based in Richmond. She graduated with a B.A. in journalism from the University of Mississippi and holds a J.D. from the Florida Coastal School of Law in Jacksonville.

A life-long Kentuckian, she lives in Lexington with her husband, Micky, and two rescue dogs, Rose and Daisy.



ANTONIA D. FAULKNER

CALLOWAY COUNTY

Antonia D. Faulkner was appointed Calloway County clerk in 2013 after being with the office in the recording section for 19 years. Taking the position was an honor, as she followed the role of her good friend, clerk Ray Coursey Jr.

She chose to run for office in the 2014 primary, leading to 10 wonderful years – so far – as county clerk, with four years as “favorite elected official” as determined by a community vote sponsored by the Murray Ledger and Times.

Her time spent recording and keeping records, handling motor vehicle transactions, collecting and dispersing tax money, along with election duties, has given her opportunities to engage with her community, interacting in a way most helpful to them.

Faulkner is quick to remind people that the success of the office has much to do with the deputies. She likes to say they give her a good name. Duties of the county clerk touch most every household, making it important to Faulkner that “our folks” are treated with respect and are taken care of.

She is a graduate of Calloway County High School, a member of the Hardin Church of Christ, and a member of Kentucky County Clerk's Association. She is a wife to Scott, a mother to Tuck, and a bonus mom to Tiffany, TJ and his wife, Kelsea. Her favorite role is being GiGi to Mason, Easton, Madison, and Hazley.



CONGRATULATIONS

Shelby Williams Somervell

Senior Vice President, Government Affairs & External Relations

Greater Louisville Inc. celebrates Shelby Williams Somervell being named a 2024 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!



[GLI] GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.
The Metro Chamber of Commerce &
Regional Economic Development Organization

www.GreaterLouisville.com



JESSICA FLETCHER

KENTUCKY CENTER FOR STATISTICS

Jessica Fletcher is the marketing analytics director at the Kentucky Center for Statistics, where she has worked since 2022. In this role, she promotes awareness and use of KYSTATS research and data.

For the last year, she has collaborated with the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education and the Kentucky Department of Education to create the state's first student-facing platform aimed at helping Kentuckians visualize their paths from classroom to career. This website will launch in early 2025.

Fletcher spent her early career in the newspaper business as a reporter, designer, and editor. In 2007, she accepted a public relations role at the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

She was recruited to the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet in 2017. There, she created a promotional campaign for the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship, which resulted in more than 100,000 website visits and 4,000 scholarship applicants. Fletcher then worked as chief communications officer at KDE, and as senior director of communications at the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. During a stint as a public information officer for Kentucky Emergency Management in the wake of two national disasters, Fletcher helped create national talking points and graphics for visits from the president of the United States and members of Congress.

Fletcher is a lifelong Kentuckian and a graduate of Rockcastle County High School. She holds a B.A. in journalism from Eastern Kentucky University and an MPA from Murray State University. She resides in Lexington with her husband, Scott.

**JENNIFER FRAKER**

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Dr. Jennifer Fraker is an accomplished professional with extensive experience in government relations and education. She currently serves as a director of government relations for the University of Kentucky, her alma mater, where she advocates for the university's interests in Frankfort and collaborates with policymakers to shape higher education policy.

Before joining UK, Fraker held a variety of roles focused on education and policy.

Most recently, she served as assistant vice president of government relations and P-20 policies and programs for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, where she worked to advance educational initiatives across the state. Additionally, she held leadership positions at the Kentucky Department of Education, including executive director of the Kentucky Board of Education, policy adviser to the commissioner, and acting director of government relations.

Fraker's career began in the classroom as a high school teacher in Oldham and Fayette counties, giving her valuable first-hand experience in education. For her work with civic education, she also was issued the Kentucky Outstanding Civic Education Leadership Award and recognized with the Kentucky Colonel Ambassador Award of Distinction.

Fraker holds a bachelor's degree in political science and both a master's and doctoral degrees in education from UK.

She and her husband, Adrian, live in Buckner, where they are raising their four children.

**REBECCA HARTSOUGH**

BABBAGE COFOUNDER

Dr. Rebecca Hartsough is the policy director for Babbage Cofounder, where she develops and manages legislative and executive policy and public funding strategies for the firm.

Hartsough has had notable successes in economic development, infrastructure, health, education, energy, tourism, justice, and technology policy sectors.

She was the leading lobbyist for Kentucky's GRANT program, the \$200 million state initiative that capitalizes on once-in-a-lifetime federal funding designed to revitalize economically distressed areas.

Hartsough has been instrumental in the development and funding of Public Health Transformation, which also has been cited as model legislation and programming for public health departments. She frequently is sought after for her expertise on both initiatives, from local, state, and national leaders.

Prior to her advocacy career, Hartsough taught extensively as a political science and public policy lecturer and undergraduate textbook contributor. She also has worked in the private sector as a data scientist, voting-behavior specialist, health-care consultant, and forensic financial analyst. She has had several government posts, the most significant being her time in the White House Correspondence Office of former first lady Laura Bush.

Hartsough holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science and quantitative methods from Emory University, where she completed a B.A. in political science and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. An Owensboro native, she lives with her family in Louisville.

**MARY HARVILLE**

KENTUCKY LOTTERY CORP.

As president and CEO, Mary Harville is leading the Kentucky Lottery Corp. to new heights in its mission to fuel imagination and fund education for all Kentuckians.

Since her appointment in 2020, Harville has overseen record-breaking annual lottery sales across both the organization's retail and internet gaming channels. These increased sales mean more funding than ever before is available to Kentucky college students and their families.

A native of Morganfield, Harville obtained her undergraduate degree as a first-generation college student from the University of Kentucky, where she also graduated from the UK College of Law. She was a partner in the Louisville law firm of Reed Weitkamp Schell and Vice.

Harville joined the lottery in 2004 as senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary. She is the first woman and only the second Kentucky native to serve as lottery president and CEO. Under her leadership, the Kentucky Lottery was selected in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 as a "Best Place to Work in Kentucky."

Since being appointed as president and CEO, Harville received the Louisville Business First Most Enterprising Woman Award in 2021 and was selected by Louisville Business First as a Most Admired CEO in 2022. She holds the international NASPL Powers Award for Leadership in the Lottery Industry, and she serves as the Multi-State Lottery Association chair of the Mega Millions Product Group.



BLAIR HAYDON

EMERGE KENTUCKY

Blair Haydon serves as the executive director of Emerge Kentucky, a role she held from 2016 to 2020, before returning in 2022.

A native of Springfield, raised in a family with a strong background in politics, Haydon has dedicated her career to empowering others.

She earned her bachelor's degree in social work from Eastern Kentucky University, having previously attended St. Catherine College on a golf scholarship. She furthered her education with graduate studies in special education at Campbellsville University.

Haydon's career highlights include managing the transitional living program for homeless pregnant teens at Buckhorn Children and Family Services, and serving as director of 21st Century Community Learning Centers in Madison and Fayette counties. She also contributed to the statewide implementation of the Strengthening Families framework as part of Gov. Steve Beshear's Office of Early Childhood. Before rejoining Emerge Kentucky, Haydon served as political director for Amy McGrath's U.S. Senate campaign.

In her current role, she is a champion for Democratic women, recruiting and supporting candidates through Emerge's intensive training program.

In addition to her professional achievements, Haydon serves as the 76th Legislative District chair on the Fayette County Democratic Executive Committee and sits on the board of the Kenwick Neighborhood Association in Lexington, where she resides with her husband and their three children.



LAUREN HOGAN

ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Lauren Hogan is the director of external affairs for Associated General Contractors of Kentucky. In this capacity, she manages government relations, advocates for industry policies, and engages with legislators and public officials to promote the interests of the commercial construction industry. Hogan plays a pivotal role in the organization's public relations strategy and oversees marketing initiatives.

Before joining AGC of Kentucky, Hogan was deputy political director for former United Nations Ambassador Kelly Craft's gubernatorial campaign. In this role, she managed grassroots strategies across all of Kentucky's 120 counties, demonstrating her ability to organize and mobilize people. She also served as a policy analyst for Kentucky Speaker of the House David Osborne, where she provided guidance on legislative matters.

Hogan's career includes experience as director of advocacy and media at Babbage Cofounder, where she managed a portfolio of clients across industries such as health, technology, and education. Her strong advocacy skills and ability to analyze legislative and regulatory issues have made her a trusted figure in Kentucky's political landscape.

Hogan holds a master of public administration degree from Murray State University and a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Kentucky. She has been named one of Frankfort's Top Young Professionals Under 40 and received the Kentucky Distillers Association Successful Legislative Session award.



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BOBBIE HOLSCLAW

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Elected in November 1998, Bobbie Holsclaw commenced her first term as Jefferson County clerk on Jan. 1, 1999. Leading a team of over 265 employees across nine divisions, she oversees services for the citizens of Jefferson County. In her role, Holsclaw manages the issuance, registration, and titling of all motor vehicles in the county, and the recording and maintenance of legal documents. She also is responsible for collecting delinquent property taxes and issuing disabled parking permits, marriage licenses, professional licenses, and notary commissions.

With a unique blend of integrity and dedication, Holsclaw redefined the office's vision and elevated its performance. Under her guidance, the clerk's office became a pioneer in offering online and telephone vehicle renewals. To enhance customer experience, web cams were installed in motor vehicle departments, allowing customers to check branch congestion before visiting. Holsclaw expanded access to land records via a free online service, and most recently implemented "ClerkAlert," a fraud-prevention system that alerts property owners if records are filed in their name or business name. She serves as chair of the county board of elections, where she implemented private voting to visually impaired and physically challenged voters.

Holsclaw is a Kentucky County Clerk's Association member and served on the board of the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Clerks. She is a past president of the Southeast Republican Women's Club, among other recognitions.

**JENNIFER KIRCHNER**

KENTUCKIANS

FOR BETTER TRANSPORTATION

Jennifer Kirchner is an accomplished government relations and communications professional. In 2020, she joined Kentuckians for Better Transportation as executive director, where she leads a diverse membership association to educate and advocate for a safe and sustainable multi-modal transportation network in the commonwealth. In doing so, she works closely with federal, state, and local governments to advocate for funding across all modes.

Originally from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Kirchner holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Indiana University-Bloomington. Her career path led her to biotech research at start-ups and large pharmaceutical companies in the Boston area. There, she investigated therapeutics for genetic and neurodegenerative diseases, including the use of stem cells for cancer treatments.

In 2009, Kirchner moved with her family to Danville, Kentucky, where she discovered a passion for community development. She began working in tourism and economic development. Her work focused on strategic planning, marketing, community engagement, and asset development. Her professional accomplishments include being a graduate of Leadership Kentucky, the University of Kentucky Institute of Economic Development, and The Harwood Institute for Public Innovators. She also serves on the board of directors for the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers.

**LAURA M. KNOTH**

KY CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

KY SMALL GRAIN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Laura M. Knoth has served as the executive director for the Kentucky Corn Growers and Kentucky Small Grain Growers associations since 2010. In this role, she works with grower leaders to provide promotion, marketing, education, grassroots, and membership programs to the nearly 6,000 grain farmers across the commonwealth. Knoth also lobbies for the organizations and has been a staple in Frankfort since 1992.

Prior to accepting her current position, Knoth served the Kentucky Farm Bureau for 18 years. As director of the public affairs division, she supervised Kentucky Farm Bureau's public affairs activities, including state and national lobbying, policy development programs, political education, natural resources, local affairs, and commodity activities.

She currently serves as an appointed director on the Farm Credit Mid-America Board; as a board member of Commonwealth Agri-Energy, a farmer-owned cooperative ethanol facility in Hopkinsville; as a board member of the Kentucky Agriculture Leadership Program; and as a board member of Kentucky Ag and the Environment in the Classroom.

Knoth is a graduate of the University of Kentucky, holding a bachelor of science degree in agriculture with an emphasis in natural resources and environmental economics.

She and her husband operate a hay and cattle farm in Grand Rivers, and recently purchased a nursery and garden center business in Calvert City.

**LAURA LARUE**

COMPLIANCE CONSULTING

With more than 30 years of political finance experience, Laura LaRue is Kentucky's premier Republican campaign compliance officer.

LaRue has served as the campaign treasurer for numerous state and federal candidates, including Congressman Brett Guthrie, former Attorney General Daniel Cameron, former state Treasurer Allison Ball (now state auditor), Kentuckians for Strong Leadership, and more.

Today, she oversees all client accounts as senior adviser for Bluegrass Compliance, a division of Louisville-based RunSwitch Public Relations. The division's client roster includes current Attorney General Russell Coleman and Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell, along with many PACs, and state and local candidates.

She is a long-time member of the Republican Party of Kentucky State Executive Committee and has served in various leadership roles for local Republican organizations. She formerly served as treasurer and Budget Committee chair for the Lincoln Trail Area Development District, treasurer for the Lincoln Trail Venture Group, and is a past president of the Hardin County Republican Women's Club.

LaRue is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, where earned a pre-law degree in paralegal science. She and her husband, Ben, reside in Elizabethtown.



MOLLY NICOL LEWIS

KY PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

Molly Nicol Lewis is the chief executive officer for the Kentucky Primary Care Association, a membership organization dedicated to promoting access to high-quality, equitable, primary health care to the underserved. KPCA members include federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and other primary-care providers. The KPCA supports members through services that include clinical services, revenue cycle management, billing and coding assistance, grants management, and patient enrollment.

As the lead member of the KPCA's management team, Lewis develops and implements ethical, strategic, sustainable, and mission-centered operations for the organization and its stakeholders. She advocates on behalf of members for sensible and impactful payment mechanisms that facilitate the delivery of community-based, patient-centered health services.

Lewis held roles at the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, including deputy general counsel, executive director of the Office of Health Policy, and deputy inspector general. She practiced health-care law for McBrayer for eight years in Lexington.

Lewis received her bachelor's degree in psychology-child studies from Vanderbilt University, graduating magna cum laude, and her juris doctorate from the University of Kentucky College of Law, where she was a member of the moot court and editor of a law journal. She lives in Lexington with her husband, Rob, and two young boys.



AMANDA LICH

AT&T KENTUCKY

Amanda Lich is the regional director of external affairs for AT&T Kentucky, guiding the strategic direction of the company's corporate initiatives in Western and Central Kentucky. She collaborates with business executives, community leaders, and government officials to expand AT&T's fiber and 5G wireless services to help connect Kentuckians to greater possibility.

Prior to joining AT&T, Amanda spent 17 years as the senior director of philanthropy at Western Kentucky University. She also led philanthropic initiatives as the Children's Miracle Network director for Kentucky Children's Hospital in Lexington.

Lich's extensive background in philanthropy, relationship-building, and community engagement has been pivotal at AT&T. She leads AT&T Kentucky's statewide corporate and social-responsibility programs, promoting digital equity and the efforts in community resilience and disaster response.

She is an active board member for Boys & Girls Clubs of the Bowling Green Area, is treasurer of her church, and chairs the Edmonson County Hall of Distinguished Alumni. She is a graduate of Leadership Edmonson County and Leadership Bowling Green.

Lich holds a bachelor of science in health care and business administration from Western Kentucky University and a master of public administration from the University of Kentucky. A native of Edmonson County, she resides on her family farm with her husband, Stewart, and their three children, Ava, Cam, and Jack.



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
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SARA MASSEY

McCARTHY STRATEGIC SOLUTIONS
KENTUCKY BEVERAGE ASSOCIATION

Sara Massey is a strategic partner with McCarthy Strategic Solutions and serves as the executive director of the Kentucky Beverage Association. She uses her nearly two decades of government relations experience to successfully advocate for MSS clients.

As executive director for the Kentucky Beverage Association, Massey provides governance and strategic direction for legislative and regulatory priorities as well as initiatives for the non-alcoholic beverage industry.

Previously, she served as the executive director for the Kentucky Engineering Center, a trade association for Kentucky Professional Engineers. She oversaw the representation of nearly 1,000 professional engineers, 85 engineering firms, and more than 2,500 Kentucky employees. Massey also served as director of intergovernmental affairs for Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government for nearly a decade under Mayor Greg Fischer, where she directed development of the mayor's legislative agenda and transportation funding requests. She served on the Kentucky League of Cities Board of Directors, representing the mayor's office. She also worked in campaign finance for multiple statewide races. Massey is an Ignite Louisville graduate and a 2015 Louisville Business First's 40 Under 40 award recipient.

Originally from Owensboro, Massey is a graduate of the University of Alabama. She resides in Louisville with her husband, TJ, and their two daughters.

**CANDACE MCGRAW**

CINCINNATI-NORTHERN KENTUCKY
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Candace McGraw is an aviation professional with more than 30 years of operational and legal expertise. She has led the transformation of the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport, which has been recognized by Skytrax as the Best Regional Airport in North America eight times since 2011.

McGraw is proud to lead a team that has positioned the airport for continued future success by navigating a once-in-a-generation pandemic; completing a 2050 Master Plan Study; consolidating operations into a renovated and expanded terminal; diversifying revenue through targeted cargo, land, and concessions improvements; expanding the airport's international passenger air service; and growing startup businesses.

McGraw is chair of the World Governing Board of Airports Council International, and she was appointed to two U.S. Department of Transportation boards, Women in Aviation Advisory Board and NextGen Advisory Committee, that counsel to the FAA.

She also chairs the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. She is on the board of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and is a member of the Kentucky Economic Development Partnership Board. She also serves on the advisory board for Fifth Third Bank.

She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Duquesne University.

**SUE PARRIGIN**

CITY OF BOWLING GREEN

Dr. Sue Parrigin has dedicated nearly 10 years to serving the city of Bowling Green as a city commissioner, including the last six as mayor pro tem. On Nov. 5, she was re-elected for another term on the Bowling Green City Commission.

Parrigin holds both undergraduate and master's degrees from Western Kentucky University, as well as a doctoral degree in organizational leadership and development from the University of Louisville.

Since retiring from WKU in 2017, where she developed and delivered leadership training programs to business and industry leaders in the region, Parrigin has been president of Strategic Consulting, focusing on leadership development programs and assessments for businesses.

She is actively involved in her community, serving on several boards and commissions, including the board of directors for the Kentucky League of Cities, the Tax Incremental Finance Board, the Intermodal Transportation Authority Board, Bowling Green-Warren County Drug Task Force Board, and the Chamber Ambassador Board, among others.

She was named the ATHENA Leadership Award Recipient for 2012. Parrigin is a proud graduate of Leadership Kentucky (2011) and Leadership Bowling Green (2002).

She has been married to her husband, Lyle, for 42 years and has one son, I.J., a graduate of the Gatton Academy of Math and Science. I.J. and his wife, Micah, have two children, Ira June, 2, and Jack Steele, 7 months, who bring joy to Sue and Lyle.

**SUE PATRICK**

KENTUCKY COMMUNITY
AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM

Sue Patrick is a communications and marketing leader with over 40 years of experience, including 25 years in Kentucky higher education. She currently serves as a public relations consultant for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Previously, she was the executive director for communications and marketing at the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, where she served as chief communications officer. In collaboration with the state's universities and colleges, she led statewide marketing campaigns, including the national award-winning Project Graduate program for adults returning to college.

Before returning to Kentucky, she co-founded Patrick Public Relations in Ohio, and served over 50 clients spanning education, government, and nonprofit sectors. Signature projects included a high-profile merger of governments and numerous ballot issues in support of K-12 education. Patrick got her start in PR and marketing as director of community services for a school district, following a stint as editor for two newspapers.

A graduate of Morehead State University, Patrick is an accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America. She served as president of the Thoroughbred Chapter of PRSA and as president of the Ohio Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association. She lives in Frankfort with her husband, Bob, and has two sons, Chris Lowe and Aron Patrick, and grandchildren Carter, Ella Grace, and Cassi Lowe.



THE LEXINGTON HISTORY MUSEUM PRESENTS



September 14, 2024 – February 15, 2025



Among Women weaves together the history of the Woman's Club and Lexington's social and cultural changes over more than a century. From early reform efforts to historic preservation, the exhibit traces the club and Lexington from the Progressive Era to the late 20th century. The exhibit features:

- Community changes including the establishment of the first public library, anti-spitting ordinances, and the adoption of standard time
- The influence of significant club members including Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, Lucille Caudill Little, and Loretta Brock Clark
- Artifacts once belonging to Katherine Pettit and Helen Evans as well as period style show clothing—not to be missed.

Among Women will be on display through February 15, 2025, and is included in general admission to the museum. We hope you'll spend some time being inspired by this exhibit.

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MICA WOOD PENCE**KENTUCKY CIRCUIT COURT**

Judge Mica Wood Pence is the family court judge for the 43rd Circuit, which is Barren and Metcalfe counties. Pence took the bench in November 2018. She made history as the first elected female judge and the youngest circuit judge in Barren and Metcalfe counties.

Pence earned degrees from Barren County High in 2002, Georgetown College in 2006 and the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2009.

Prior to taking the bench, Pence practiced law in 22 Kentucky counties, with a focus in family law, and served as a guardian ad litem in dependency neglect and abuse cases in Warren, Edmonson, Metcalfe, and Barren counties.

Since taking the bench, Pence has been active with organizations to help reform court practices and laws to better serve children and families. She has represented Kentucky judges at the National Judicial Leadership Summit on Child Welfare since 2019, and she has testified before legislative committees in Kentucky and Alabama concerning issues in the child welfare system and how the court system has adapted to "equal parenting."

With the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Pence also serves on various joint committees focused on mental health and communications between branches of government. She also works with community partners, including the school systems and health-care providers, to find ways to meet the needs of children.

Pence is the mother to 8-year-old Chandler and wife to Wayne.

**ABBY PIPER****PIPER | SMITH**

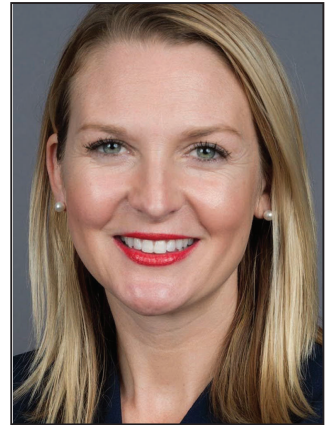
Abby Piper is founder and managing partner of Piper | Smith, a Lexington-based boutique lobbying and communications firm.

She has 15 years of experience in strategy, policy and advocacy initiatives, and high-level crisis communications. Her experience spans lobbying, public relations, and crisis communications for various industries, including agriculture, broadband, economic development, education, land use, and state procurement.

Piper holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Western Kentucky University and a master's in public administration from the University of Louisville.

She was awarded a 2022 Louisville Business First 40 Under 40 award, a 2022 Kentucky Fried Politics Emerging Power Broker award, and is co-host of the Kentucky Politics Weekly podcast.

She provides regular political commentary to various news outlets in the commonwealth, including Fox 56 News and Kentucky Educational Television.



Congratulations!
AMY CLOUD

**Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
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Politics and Government in 2024**

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BROOKE ROBERTSON

FROST BROWN TODD

For more than a quarter of a century, Brooke Robertson has been a fixture in Frankfort.

In 2000, while finishing her political science degree at the University of Kentucky, where she graduated with high honors, Robertson accepted a position as deputy policy director under Jay Blanton in the office of state Treasurer Jonathan Miller. Robertson rose through the ranks, ultimately serving as assistant state treasurer from 2006-2007.

During his first term in office, Gov. Steve Beshear tapped Robertson to serve as director of intergovernmental affairs under two secretaries, J. Michael Brown at the Justice and Safety Cabinet and Len Peters at the Energy and Environment Cabinet. Robertson gained a stellar reputation for mastering policy and working on a bipartisan basis with members of the General Assembly.

At the end of Beshear's first term, Robertson left to help establish the new government relations practice at one of Kentucky's oldest law firms, Frost Brown Todd. For more than a decade, she has helped clients navigate the procedures and culture of Kentucky government. One of her notable accomplishments is the bipartisan passage of the felony expungement bill. She also worked to create the Energy Project Assessment District program. She also works in the nation's capital, where she serves as a trusted advocate for a variety of clients, including the nascent hemp industry. Robertson has been involved in efforts to wean the country off the opioid crisis, working on behalf of coalitions that promote holistic alternatives to opioids, and advocating for prevention efforts.

**JENNY SAND**

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

As the executive director of government and community relations at Northern Kentucky University, Jenny Sand serves as the key liaison between the university and federal, state, and local officials.

Sand's career has been focused on public service, first working on political campaigns and helping open the office of U.S. Rep. Geoff Davis. There, she established a robust constituent-services program. Her passion then led her to the health-care industry. As chief strategy officer, she advocated for program and regulatory changes, and played a key role in the company's growth through acquisitions, joint ventures, and innovation initiatives.

Since 2021, Sand has been part of Northern Kentucky University, spearheading the university's engagement and economic development efforts. Drawing from her rich background in both the public and private sectors, she established a centralized unit focused on building strategic partnerships – always with an eye toward creating a stronger, more connected community. Through every role, Sand has remained committed to championing initiatives that create lasting impact.

Sand received her bachelor's degree from Albion College in Michigan and MBA from NKU. She devotes time in the community to organizations such as the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, NKY Works, and EC Learn.

She and her husband, Brian, live in Fort Thomas with their three children, Reagan, Abby, and Charlie, and rescue dog, George.



CONGRATULATIONS CATRENA!
OUR NOTABLE WOMAN IN KENTUCKY POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT NOMINEE

AMY SCARBOROUGH

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Amy Scarborough serves as the chief government, community, and corporate relations officer for Eastern Kentucky University. Scarborough joined EKU's president's cabinet in 2022 as the primary liaison to the Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky's federal delegation, local elected officials, and business and community leaders in Richmond, Madison County, and across Kentucky.

Prior to working in higher education, Scarborough served in the private sector as AT&T's executive director of legislative affairs for Kentucky, as well as AT&T's director of external affairs for Central and Eastern Kentucky.

Earlier this year, Scarborough received national recognition as a Top 25 Chief Community Officer by Women We Admire.

Scarborough is a graduate of Leadership Kentucky, Leadership Madison County, the Kentucky Institute for Economic Development, and the Public Affairs Institute. She served as the president of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and she currently serves on the boards of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Harlan County Economic Development Authority.

Scarborough has a bachelor's degree in journalism and speech from Samford University and a master's degree in corporate communication from the University of South Alabama. She enjoys travel, gardening, and reading.

Scarborough and her husband live in Madison County and have two grown daughters.

**JENA SCOTT**

GOVERNMENT STRATEGIES

Jena Scott has a diverse professional background with experience in communications, public policy, and political strategy. Scott currently serves as principal with Frankfort-based Government Strategies, where she works with clients from a variety of Kentucky industries.

Prior to joining Government Strategies in 2021, she served as communications manager for the Kentucky Association of Manufacturers, deputy communications director for the Kentucky Senate Majority Caucus, and on the political team for U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell's 2014 re-election campaign.

Scott graduated magna cum laude from Bellarmine University with a degree in environmental studies. She carries forward this passion by promoting the agricultural community in Bourbon County and the Central Kentucky region, as well as engaging with local governments and civic organizations on agricultural issues.

When not advocating for her clients, she is actively engaged in her community, including serving on the board of the Paris-Bourbon County Farmers Market. She also manages a small horse-boarding business on her family farm in her hometown of Paris, which she calls home with her loving husband, Wesley Scott, and their two young children.

In her small amount of spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family on the farm with their menagerie of horses, chickens, guinea fowl, and various rescued pets.

**RENEE SHAW**

KENTUCKY EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

Renee Shaw is the director of public affairs at KET, currently serving as host of KET's "Kentucky Edition," the signature public policy discussion series "Kentucky Tonight," election coverage, and KET Forums.

Since 2001, Shaw has been the producing force behind KET's legislative coverage that has been recognized by the Kentucky Associated Press and the National Educational Telecommunications Association. Under her leadership, KET has expanded public affairs content to include Kentucky Supreme Court coverage and program initiatives around issues such as youth mental health.

Shaw earned top awards from the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, with three regional Emmy awards. In 2023, she was inducted into the Silver Circle of the NATAS. Already an inductee into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame (2017), Shaw was inducted into Western Kentucky University's Hall of Distinguished Alumni in November 2023.

Her notable recognitions include the McConnell Scholars Chris Mattingly Outstanding Community Leadership Award, the Kentucky Association of School Administrators William Nallia Award, two awards from Mental Health America, and Women Leading Kentucky's Gov. Martha Layne Collins Leadership Award. In 2019, Shaw was named by The Kentucky Gazette's inaugural recognition of the 50 "Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government." In 2021, Shaw received the Berea College Service Award and was named "Unapologetic Woman of the Year" by the Community Action Council.

**JAIME GREEN SMITH**

LYON COUNTY

Jaime Green Smith serves as the Lyon County judge-executive. She was elected in November 2022 but took office early: Gov. Andy Beshear appointed her judge-executive on Dec. 5, 2022 after former Judge-Executive Wade White was appointed to the Tennessee Valley Authority Board by President Joe Biden.

As judge-executive, Smith is responsible for the fiscal affairs of the county. This includes serving on the Lyon County Fiscal Court, executing resolutions and ordinances, implementing regulations, overseeing the budget, and many other fiscal affairs.

Smith is a 1996 graduate of Louisville Male High School. She earned her associate of arts degree from West Kentucky Community and Technical College in May 2004, and her bachelor's degree in integrated studies in December 2008. She graduated from the Department of Criminal Justice Training in 2001 and began her law enforcement career at the Eddyville Police Department in July of 2001.

While working at the Eddyville Police Department, Smith started writing grants for Lyon County. She has been instrumental in Lyon County receiving over \$3 million in grant funds. Those grants have funded radio infrastructure for all first responders in Lyon County, generators for government entities, a resource officer for Lyon County Schools, new gym doors and fencing for Lyon County High School, and so many more. Smith worked her way through the ranks and retired as the police chief in March 2022.

She is married to her husband, Chris. She has one daughter named Morgan and one stepdaughter also named Morgan.



DANIELLE SMOOT

OFFICE OF U.S. REP. HAL ROGERS

Danielle Smoot is the communications director for U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers, dean of the U.S. House. She has worked for Rogers for 16 years, serving the people of Southern and Eastern Kentucky. Covering 33 counties in Kentucky's rural 5th District, she has worked diligently to bridge communications between complex legislative work on Capitol Hill and the impact it has on families and individuals in southeastern Kentucky.

Smoot has worked closely with organizations Rogers launched to make the region a better place to live, including Shaping Our Appalachian Region and Operation UNITE, among others.

Rogers' effective leadership and genuine compassion for Kentucky's Appalachian region has deeply inspired her own desire to give back, by organizing flood recovery efforts with her church, serving on various boards, and helping others navigate challenges with federal agencies.

Prior to working for Rogers, Smoot was an evening news anchor and reporter for WYMT-TV (CBS-Hazard), covering news in southeastern Kentucky for six years, where she won several Associated Press awards.

As a University of Kentucky journalism graduate, she is a proud member of the Big Blue Nation.

Outside of her daily work, Smoot has led worship and helped organize community events at Faith Assembly of God in London for the last seven years.



SHELBY SOMERVELL

GREATER LOUISVILLE INC.

Shelby Somervell is senior vice president of government affairs and external relations for Greater Louisville Inc. – The Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Since joining GLI in 2021, Somervell has been instrumental in advancing GLI's legislative priorities and strengthening relationships with government officials at local, state, and federal levels. Her leadership has been key in the chamber's communications strategy and support of the talented team.

In her role as the senior vice president, Somervell leads GLI's advocacy team, communications department, and economic inclusion initiatives, further demonstrating her commitment to fostering growth and opportunity throughout the Greater Louisville region. Her vision and dedication in this role continue to make a significant impact on economic development in Kentucky.

Prior to joining GLI, she was the government affairs director for the Kentucky Society of CPAs. She also previously worked for the U.S. House of Representatives, where she served as the director of economic development for Kentucky's Sixth Congressional District.

She received her bachelor's degree in international relations and business from the University of Kentucky.

Since joining GLI, she has been recognized with several honors including Louisville Business First's 40 under 40, the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives 40 under 40, and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives Staff Member of the Year.



Abby Piper, MPA
Founder & Managing Partner

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CONGRATULATIONS to our 2024 Notable Women!

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Maddie Daily, MPA
Government Relations Manager

KATY WALKER

FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY KY

Dr. Katy Walker joined the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky in January 2022 as a policy associate and now serves as the public affairs administrator. In this role, she influences health policy at state and local levels, working closely with her colleagues to implement key policy priorities. Her responsibilities include advocating for the foundation's mission; coordinating legislative efforts; liaising with the foundation's Community Advisory Council; and collaborating with partners to reduce health disparities and improve access to health care.

Before joining the foundation, Walker served as the policy and advocacy coordinator at the Louisiana Center for Children's Rights, where she championed policies to reduce youth incarceration and led campaigns for release options for those serving life without parole.

She began her career shaping federal juvenile justice policy at Fight Crime: Invest in Kids in Washington D.C., following her earlier work advocating for the abolition of the death penalty at the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

Walker holds a bachelor's degree in government and history from Smith College and a Ph.D in history with a concentration in Atlantic and legal history from New York University. Her work has been published in the Louisiana Bar Journal and the Chicago-Kent Law Review.

After two decades away, she was thrilled to return to her home state of Kentucky. Walker lives in Louisville with her wife, Dr. Jen Wilson, their dog, Archie, and their cat, Finn.

**LOREN WOLFF**

DBL LAW

Loren Wolff has vast experience in government, politics, and law. She is a partner with DBL Law in Northern Kentucky and specializes in economic development, government advocacy, and real estate. Wolff works with municipalities and counties throughout the state on matters pertaining to zoning, real estate, and economic development.

Wolff has practiced in Northern Kentucky since 2007, including owning her own law practice with her husband.

In 2017, she served as the interim city manager for Covington. Prior to law school, Wolff worked in the Indiana General Assembly and the Indianapolis mayor's office.

Now, Wolff assists clients with planning and zoning and other transactional issues impacting growth and development. She has a practical approach, and her experience in government, urban development, and owning her own business makes her well suited to advise businesses through various stages of growth.

Wolff earned her J.D. from the University of Illinois-Chicago School of Law, and she holds a bachelor of science degree in political science and history from Indiana University.

She serves on the boards for Center for Great Neighborhoods of Covington (past chair), Covington Community Montessori, the Northern Kentucky Convention Center, Blue North Entrepreneur Leadership Council, and Kentucky Commission on Small Business Innovation and Advocacy.

Wolff resides in Covington with her husband, Ben, and three children.



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SARAH WOOD

BABBAGE COFOUNDER

Sarah Wood serves as a policy adviser at Babbage Cofounder. Her passion for government and advocacy was shaped by her experiences as a Fulbright Fellow in Ukraine and through her master's degree in international relations.

During her tenure at Babbage Cofounder, Wood has played a key role in legislative efforts across various sectors. She has particularly excelled in leading a coalition through numerous advocacy efforts, focusing on protecting patients' access to care and advancing legislation to increase prescription drug affordability. Her work has taken her across the country, where she has presented before legislative committees, conferences of elected officials, and advocacy organizations.

In two years of working on behalf of the Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition, Wood has played an integral role in the passage of legislation in three states to lower patients' out-of-pocket costs for their medications. In Kentucky, she is a sought-after source on health-care legislation.

Before joining Babbage Cofounder, Wood spent a year in Ukraine on a Fulbright Fellowship. After returning, she worked as a research analyst for a Washington D.C. due-diligence firm and interned at the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security Fusion Center.

Wood holds a master's degree in international relations from the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky, and a bachelor's degree in Russian language and integrated strategic communications from UK.



STACY WOODRUM

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Stacy Woodrum serves as the executive director of the Office of Management and Budget for Kentucky Attorney General Russell Coleman. Woodrum manages a \$100 million budget, provides human resource management to over 250 employees, oversees nine offices across the commonwealth, and administers the agency's contracts and federal grants.

For over two decades, Woodrum has proudly served the citizens of the commonwealth in senior leadership roles at the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Department of Corrections, Department of Juvenile Justice, Kentucky State Police, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

Woodrum also worked in the health-care industry as a senior government affairs strategist and served as executive director to two large health-care associations.

She is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Louisville's Brandeis School of Law. Woodrum is a community volunteer and a member of the Ferndale Baptist Church, where she plays the piano.

She is a life-long resident of Casey County, where she resides with her husband, Mike, and daughter, Payton, on their farm. She credits her parents and grandparents for instilling a strong work ethic in her at an early age that has been the key to a successful and fulfilling public service career.



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ADDIA WUCHNER**KENTUCKY RIGHT TO LIFE**

Addia Kathryn Louise Wuchner is lovingly referred to by her family and closest friends as “a woman of deep faith, a true servant leader, and a passionate Force of Nature.”

Since 2021, Wuchner has served as executive director of Kentucky Right to Life and The Right to Life Education Foundation of Kentucky.

She served in the Kentucky House of Representatives from 2005 to 2019, where she focused on improving health and educational outcomes for women and children. She fought to elevate child pornography offenses to a felony in Kentucky. She also championed the Shaken Baby Prevention Act, and she led passage of the 2017 Women’s Right to Know-Ultrasound Informed Consent Act and the 2018 Human Rights of the Child Act.

A Louisville native, she has lived in Northern Kentucky for 40 years. She is a registered nurse, bioethicist, and retired health-care administrator. She holds two honorary doctorates and has received numerous awards and recognitions. She has served on many boards, including Kentucky CASA and Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, and she is founder of Project Wings of Mercy, leading humanitarian missions to Bosnia, Mexico, and Haiti.

Wuchner is co-host of the weekly radio show and podcast “Wednesday for Women,” where often shares her journey through breast cancer. In 2023, she launched Her Future – Pregnant & Parenting Scholarship Program. She and her husband have three children and 13 grandchildren they call their “grand-gifts.”

**REWA MEDHAT ZAKHARIA****OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Rewa Medhat Zakharia was appointed in January 2024 by Attorney General Russell Coleman as the criminal chief for the Kentucky Office of the Attorney General. In this role she oversees the Special Prosecutions Division, the Office of Medicaid Fraud and Abuse Control, and the Office of Victim Advocacy.

Prior to this role, Zakharia was a career prosecutor, beginning her career in Lexington as an assistant commonwealth’s attorney under Commonwealth Attorneys Ray Larson and Lou Anna Red Corn. She moved to the AG’s office and became director over special prosecutions.

Zakharia is a nationally recognized speaker who has trained professionals in nine states and locally, including prosecutors and law enforcement, through the National District Attorneys Association and the Attorney General Alliance. Her passion always has been to protect children. In 2023, she co-created a course to teach prosecutors best practices in child sexual-abuse cases. She received the Ian Sonogo Award of Excellence by the Prosecutors Advisory Council, recognizing her pursuit of integrity in the criminal justice system.

Zakharia is a member of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police and The Kentucky Bar Foundation. She served for many years on the Kentucky Multidisciplinary Commission on Child Sexual Abuse, and she volunteers for The Nest: Center for Women, Children and Families, a grassroots non-profit that empowers families in crisis.

Zakharia was born in Hamat, Lebanon, and she currently lives in Lexington with her husband, Hunter Hickman, and is expecting twin boys in 2025.



Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government

Policy and Procedures

The Kentucky Gazette’s “Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government” is published annually with the help of our readers and our nominees. Here’s how we do it:

- Each year, we ask readers and social media followers to nominate women who work in Kentucky’s public affairs arena. Nominations for next year’s edition will open in August 2025.
- Nominations are accepted from anyone, and self-nominations are accepted.
- Nominators are confidential.
- Nominations are vetted by staff and contractors of The Kentucky Gazette to ensure they meet the criteria: Notable Women must be top-level professionals in a public affairs position; they must work in Kentucky, for a Kentucky firm, or for a member of Kentucky’s delegation in Washington D.C.; and they must be currently serving in the role for which they are nominated.
- After selecting the Notable Women, The Kentucky Gazette sends each nominee a letter via the U.S. Postal Service, letting them know they have been selected. The letters ask nominees to submit a 250-word biography and a high-resolution head shot.
- The Kentucky Gazette staff edits biographies for clarity, style, and length only. We do not fact check the nominees’ biographical claims.
- The Kentucky Gazette staff crops photos for size consistency, and edits for color correction and clarity as necessary for quality, four-color printing.

The Kentucky Gazette

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