**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**
**EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION**
**CASE 12-008**

**IN RE: MARK JACKSON**
**ALLEGED VIOLATION OF KRS CHAPTER 11A**

# INITIATING ORDER
**Initiation of Administrative Proceeding**
**And Formal Complaint**

The Executive Branch Ethics Commission (the "Commission"), upon its own motion, initiated a preliminary investigation of Mark Jackson (the "Respondent"), pursuant to KRS 11A.080(1), on July 2, 2012.

At all relevant times, the Respondent was a "public servant" as defined in KRS 11A.010(9), and thus subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

The Commission initiated the preliminary investigation to determine whether there was probable cause to believe the Respondent violated provisions of KRS Chapter 11A (also referred to herein as the "Ethics Code").

The Commission focused upon the Respondent's possible violation of the Ethics Code by failing to file a completed 2011 Statement of Financial Disclosure with the Commission for the year that he was employed by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

The Commission notified the Respondent of the preliminary investigation by letter dated July 3, 2012. During the course of the investigation, the Commission found probable cause to believe that violations of KRS Chapter 11A had occurred and voted on September 24, 2012, to initiate an administrative proceeding, pursuant to KRS 11A.080(4)(b) and KRS Chapter 13B, to determine whether the Respondent violated the Ethics Code as set forth in the Allegations of Violations, attached hereto and incorporated fully herein as Appendix A to this Initiating Order.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that:

1. The Respondent shall file his answer to this Initiating Order within twenty (20) days from the date of service, verifying the truth and accuracy of any answer submitted.

2. The Respondent shall appear at a hearing to be scheduled by subsequent order and be prepared to defend against the Commission's allegations that he committed the Ethics Code violations set forth in the Allegation of Violations, attached hereto and incorporated fully herein as Appendix A to this Initiating Order.

3. A Hearing Officer will be designated by the Administrative Hearings Branch of the Office of the Attorney General, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8204.

4. The Commission is represented by Kathryn H. Gabhart, General Counsel, and John R. Steffen, Executive Director. They may be contacted through the Commission's office at (502) 564-7954.

5. All original material shall be submitted to the Executive Branch Ethics Commission, #3 Fountain Place, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. A copy of all materials shall be served on the designated Hearing Officer at the Office of the Attorney General, 1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-8204.

6. The Respondent has the right to legal counsel during this proceeding. If the Respondent retains legal counsel, that person shall file an appearance with the Commission, and thereafter all correspondence from the Commission to the Respondent shall be mailed or delivered to the Respondent's attorney.

7. The Respondent has the right to examine upon request, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing, a list of witnesses the Commission expects to call at the hearing, any evidence which will be used at the hearing and any exculpatory information in the Commission's

possession.

8. The Respondent has the right to subpoena witnesses on his own behalf. If the Respondent subpoenas witnesses, he shall pay for all costs associated with the subpoenas' issuance, including any applicable witness fees.

9. If the Respondent fails to attend or participate as required at any stage of the administrative hearing process without good cause shown, he may be held in default pursuant to KRS 13B.050(3)(h).

10. The Respondent has a right to appeal any final Commission order to the Franklin Circuit Court within thirty (30) days of service.

11. This proceeding is subject to KRS Chapter 11A, the Commission's regulations, the provisions of KRS Chapter 13B, and any Order issued by the Commission or its hearing officer issued during this administrative proceeding.

So ordered this 24th day of September, 2012.

**EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION:**

Angela Edwards, Chair

W. David Denton, Vice-Chair

William L. Knopf, Member

William G. Francis, Member

Lewis G. Paisley, Member

**APPENDIX A**
**CASE NO. 12-008**
**INITIATING ORDER**

## ALLEGATION OF VIOLATIONS

The Respondent, Mark Jackson, was at all relevant times an employee of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, serving in the Department of Agriculture. As such, the Respondent was subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. KRS 11A.010(9)(h).

During the course of its preliminary investigation, the Commission found probable cause to believe that Mark Jackson committed the following violation:

### COUNT I

That Mark Jackson, former Special Assistant with the Department of Agriculture, failed to properly file a Statement of Financial Disclosure with the Executive Branch Ethics Commission.

Specifically, Jackson, as an "officer" as defined in KRS 11A.010(7), in violation of KRS 11A.050 (1), (2), and (3), failed to file a completed 2011 Statement of Financial Disclosure within the time period required by statute for the portion of calendar year 2011 during which he was employed by the Department of Agriculture as a Special Assistant. As of the date of entry of this Initiating Order, Mark Jackson has yet to file a 2011 Statement of Financial Disclosure with the Commission.

These facts constitute a violation of KRS 11A.050 (1), (2), and (3).

KRS 11A.050 (1), (2), and (3) provide:

> (1) Each officer, each public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g), and each candidate shall file a statement of financial disclosure with the commission, as follows:
>
> (a) Each officer and each public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g) who occupies his position during any portion of a calendar year shall file

the statement for that portion of the calendar year he occupied the position on or before April 15 of the following year, whether or not he remains an officer or public servant as listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g).

(b) Each officer and public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g) who does not remain an officer or public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g) for the entire calendar year shall file the statement for the portion of the calendar year that the person served as an officer or public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g). The statement shall be filed with the commission within thirty (30) days after the date the person no longer serves as an officer or public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g).

(c) A candidate shall file the statement reflecting the previous calendar year with the commission no later than February 15.

(2) The statement of financial disclosure shall be filed on a form prescribed by the commission. The commission shall provide copies of the form upon request without charge.

(3) The statement shall include the following information for the preceding calendar year:

(a) Name and entire residential and business address of filer;

(b) Title of position or office whereby filing is required;

(c) Any other occupations of filer and spouse;

(d) Positions held by the filer or his spouse in any business, and the name and address of the business;

(e) Names and addresses of all businesses in which the filer, his spouse, or dependent children has or had an interest of ten thousand dollars ($10,000) at fair market value or five percent (5%) ownership interest or more;

(f) The name and address of any source of gross income exceeding one thousand dollars ($1,000) from any one (1) source to the filer, his spouse, or dependent child, as well as information concerning the nature of the business, and the form of the income;

(g) Sources of retainers received by the filer or his spouse relating to matters of the state agency for which the filer works or supervises or of any other entity of state government for which the filer would serve in a decision-making capacity, including each source's name and address;

(h) Any representation or intervention for compensation by the filer or his spouse for any person or business before a state agency for which the filer works or supervises or before any entity of state government for which the filer would serve in a decision-making capacity, including the name and address of the person or business;

(i) All positions of a fiduciary nature held by the filer or his spouse in a business, including the name and address of the business;

(j) Information, including a street address or location, regarding any real property in which there is an interest of ten thousand dollars ($10,000) or more held by the filer, his spouse, or dependent children;

(k) Sources, including each source's name and address, of gifts of money or property with a retail value of more than two hundred dollars ($200) from any one (1) source to the filer, his spouse, or dependent children, except those from a member of the filer's family; and

(l) Identity, including an address, of creditors owed more than ten thousand dollars ($10,000), except debts arising from the purchase of consumer goods.

Paragraphs (a) to (l) of this subsection shall not require disclosure of specific dollar amounts or of privileged information.

KRS 11A.010(7) defines "officer" as follows:

(7) "Officer" means all major management personnel in the executive branch of state government, including the secretary of the cabinet, the Governor's chief executive officers, cabinet secretaries, deputy cabinet secretaries, general counsels, commissioners, deputy commissioners, principal assistants, division directors, members and full-time chief administrative officers of the Parole Board, Board of Tax Appeals, Board of Claims, Kentucky Retirement Systems board of trustees, Public Service Commission, Worker's Compensation Board and its administrative law judges, the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, the Kentucky Board of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education, and any person who holds a personal service contract to perform on a full-time basis for a period of time not less than six (6) months a function of any position listed in this subsection.

**(End of document)**