



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION

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FRANKFORT, KY---The Executive Branch Ethics Commission voted today to appoint Kathryn H. Gabhart to serve as its new Executive Director, effective August 1, 2015. Ms. Gabhart is only the third Executive Director to serve the Commission since its inception in 1992. She replaces John R. Steffen who was recently appointed as the new Executive Director of the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance and served the Commission for eleven years.

Ms. Gabhart served as the Commission's General Counsel from 2011 to 2015 and has been serving as the Commission's Interim Executive Director since May 16, 2015. She has represented the Commission in over 140 investigations and 64 administrative proceedings. Prior to her service for the Commission, Ms. Gabhart served as the General Counsel for the State Board of Elections and as interim counsel for the Secretary of State's Office under Trey Grayson. Ms. Gabhart also served as the counsel for the Kentucky Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission and began her public service career in the Criminal Appeals Division of the Attorney General's Office in 1999.

David Denton, a Paducah, Kentucky, attorney, who is the Chair of the Commission, stated, "Katie is uniquely qualified for the position of executive director and has served the Commission well as its General Counsel."

Ms. Gabhart is a graduate of the Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, University of Louisville, and a graduate of the University of Kentucky. Ms. Gabhart is a certified Hearing Officer and is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association, admitted to practice before the Kentucky Supreme Court, the United States District Courts of Kentucky, and the Sixth Circuit United States Court of Appeals. She lives in Georgetown with her husband and five children and volunteers for the Special Olympics of Kentucky.

The Commission is an independent agency charged with enforcing the Executive Branch Code of Ethics. The mission of the Commission is to promote the ethical conduct of elected officials, officers, and other public servants in the executive branch of state government.