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FRANKFORT, KY – At its meeting today the Executive Branch Ethics Commission presented Katherine Rupinen, of the Kentucky Retirement Systems, with its first annual Outstanding Ethics Officer Award for 2015. The Commission established this annual award program to recognize an individual serving as a designated Ethics Officer for an executive branch agency for his or her outstanding achievement and contributions in promoting the ethical conduct of executive branch employees.

Ms. Rupinen was awarded for her efforts to enforce the Executive Branch Code of Ethics while serving as an Ethics Officer for her the Kentucky Retirement Systems and implement policies and procedures for the effective enforcement of the Ethics Code. Ms. Rupinen developed procedures for dealing with gifts unique to the complexities of her agency. She has engaged and managed internal investigations to ensure compliance with the Ethics Code and to root out issue before they become violations. Indeed, Ms. Rupinen has consistently come to the Commission staff for advice on various matters and is an excellent Ethics Officer. It is therefore only fitting that she receives this award.

Ms. Rupinen graduated from Centre College and the University of Kentucky, College of Law. She has worked as a volunteer for AmeriCorp, a staff attorney for Central Kentucky Legal Services, and as Director of the Fayette County Bar Association Pro Bono Program. She began her career working as a staff attorney for the Kentucky Retirement Systems in 2002. She was designated as Ethics Officer for the Kentucky Retirement Systems in 2008. She was appointed as Interim Assistant General Counsel in 2011. She became Assistant General Counsel in 2013. Ms. Rupinen is a member of the Kentucky Bar Association, the Kentucky State Government Bar Association, and the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys where she served on the Benefits Committee for two years.