FRANKFORT, KY – At its meeting today the Executive Branch Ethics Commission presented Deaidre C. Douglas, of the Department of Criminal Justice Training, Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, with its annual Outstanding Ethics Officer Award for 2018. The Commission established this annual award program in 2015 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. Douglas was awarded for her efforts to enforce the Executive Branch Code of Ethics while serving as an Ethics Officer for the Department of Criminal Justice Training and implement policies and procedures for the effective enforcement of the Ethics Code. Ms. Douglas has served as Staff Attorney Manager/Assistant General Counsel in the Office of Legal Services for the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet assigned to the Department for Criminal Justice Training since August 1, 2016. Ms. Douglas also became the Ethics Officer for the Department in 2016. Since her designation, she has demonstrated a remarkable concern for ensuring that her agency and its employees not only follow the Ethics Code, but also operate beyond the dictates of the Code. She has been very conscientious to verify that her agency’s established policies are above reproach, has been a consistent seeker of advice from the Commission staff, and painstakingly ensures that her agency implements policy to put that advice in action. It is therefore only fitting that she receives this award.

Ms. Douglas has over 17 years of experience in the practice of law. After earning her JD from the University of Kentucky, College of Law in 2001, Ms. Douglas served as a law clerk to the Bourbon County Circuit Court judge before opening a private practice in Paris, Ky. There, she practiced in the areas of criminal defense; family/divorce; dependency, neglect and abuse; real estate; social security disability; and juvenile law. She also served as the Bourbon County Teen
Court coordinator and as secretary/treasurer of the Bourbon County Bar Association from 2005 to 2006.

Three years later, Ms. Douglas joined the Department of Public Advocacy (DPA) where she served a 10-county area in central and eastern Kentucky. In 2009, she was promoted to Directing Attorney for the London DPA office. During this time, she attended the National Criminal Defense College Trial Practice Institute in Macon, Georgia.

While serving as Directing Attorney, Ms. Douglas managed circuit, district and family court coverages in five counties, practiced death penalty cases, acted as the Defense bar FAIR Team representative, and Laurel County Teen Court coordinator.

Ms. Douglas also holds a bachelor’s degree in English Education from Eastern Kentucky University.