



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION

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FRANKFORT, KY – At its meeting today the Executive Branch Ethics Commission presented Mrs. Maryellen Mynear, Inspector General/Executive Director, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and a Hearing Officer for the Department of Transportation, with the Inaugural Governor Brereton C. Jones Outstanding Ethics Officer Award for 2023. In honor of Governor Brereton C. Jones and the role he played in establishing the Executive Branch Ethics Code and the establishment of this commission, the Commission renamed its annual award to the “Governor Brereton C. Jones Outstanding Ethics Officer Award.” In 1992, it was Governor Jones’ vision and leadership that first established an Ethics Code for the Executive Branch of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. He then worked with the legislature to draft and enact legislation that codified the Ethics Code and established an independent ethics commission, the Executive Branch Ethics Commission. Ethical requirements were placed upon state workers and a truly independent body was set up and funded to enforce those requirements—a truly positive step forward for the Commonwealth. The annual Outstanding Ethics Officer Award program was established 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.

Mrs. Mynear was awarded for her efforts to enforce the Executive Branch Code of Ethics while serving as a designated Ethics Officer and to implement policies and procedures for the effective enforcement of the Ethics Code.

Mrs. Mynear currently serves as Inspector General/Executive Director and Hearing Officer for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and directs all investigators to promote and ensure accountability and efficiency by reducing waste, fraud, or abuse of Cabinet resources. Ms. Mynear reviews and edits Investigative reports to be provided to executive management. Ms. Mynear in consultation with the investigator makes decisions to refer a matter to law enforcement, another agency, or the state Ethics Commission. She previously served as Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Kentucky Attorney General and Directed the

Families Branch consisting of the Offices of Consumer Protection; Victims' Advocacy; Senior Protection; and Child Abuse and Human Trafficking Prevention and Prosecution. Ms. Mynear spearheaded all enforcement and civil litigation under the KY Consumer Protection Act and with her team delivered more than \$62 million in restitution, civil penalties, costs, and General Fund recoveries. Ms. Maryellen Mynear advanced the development, initiation and expansion of statewide programs and services to better protect seniors from scams and abuse and led efforts to expand and improve awareness of human trafficking crime and to expand training to law enforcement. She worked daily with government officials, stakeholders, public and media and is accustomed to and adept at handling matters under intense media/public scrutiny. Ms. Mynear previously served as Inspector General/Executive Director, Cabinet for Health and Family Services. She was the head of the statewide office with 260+ employees statewide and a \$22 Million budget regulating variety of health care providers, childcare providers, long-term care facilities and child adoption/placement agencies, and investigating fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement or misconduct by Cabinet clients, employees, providers, vendors, or contractors. CHFS OIG coordinated enforcement of federal law as state survey agency for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and operated the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting ("KASPER") Program and enforces applicable laws related thereto. She reviewed and/or drafted proposed statutory and administrative law or amendments pertaining to enforcement; met with regulated entities, consumer advocates and other interested parties; and appeared and testified before legislative bodies. Mrs. Mynear previously worked as Litigation Manager/Assistant General Counsel Office of the Kentucky Attorney General and Directed investigations and litigation for Office of Consumer Protection; maintained active caseload, including lead counsel role in JD Byrider litigation, resulting in \$7.4 million settlement; supervised assistant attorneys general and investigators; evaluated litigation risks and opportunities. In addition to the above, Mrs. Maryellen Mynear also worked as Assistant General Counsel, Kentucky School Boards Association; Senior Attorney, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government; and, Associate, Commercial Litigation, Frost & Jacobs (Now Frost Brown Todd LLC).

Ms. Mynear passed board examination to become Certified Inspector General from the Association of Inspectors General and received her Juris Doctor, Order of the Coif; Managing Editor of the Journal of Environmental Law & Policy from the University of Kentucky College of Law and her B.A., Business Administration from the University of Kentucky. She is admitted to Kentucky (state court); U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, and various U.S. bankruptcy courts.

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