



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
EXECUTIVE BRANCH ETHICS COMMISSION

JUDGE ROGER L. CRITTENDEN (RET.)
CHAIR

SEN. DAVID K. KAREM (RET.)
VICE CHAIR

CRIT LUALLEN
JUSTICE DANIEL J. VENTERS (RET.)
DAVID S. SAMFORD

CAPITAL COMPLEX EAST
1025 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE, SUITE #104
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
(502) 564-7954
FAX: (502)-695-5939
[HTTPS://ETHICS.KY.GOV/](https://ethics.ky.gov/)

SUSAN STOKLEY CLARY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STEVEN T. PULLIAM
GENERAL COUNSEL

SUCHETA MEENA MOHANTY
DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL

PRESS RELEASE DATE:
NOVEMBER 17, 2021

CONTACT: Susan Stokley Clary
(502) 892-3400
SUSAN.CLARY@KY.GOV

FRANKFORT, KY – At its meeting today the Executive Branch Ethics Commission presented Stafford Easterling, General Counsel, and a Hearing Officer for the Kentucky Personnel Board, with its annual Outstanding Ethics Officer Award for 2022. 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.

Mr. Easterling was awarded for his 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.

Mr. Easterling currently serves as General Counsel and Hearing Officer for the Kentucky Personnel Board. He previously served as a Staff Attorney III for the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and litigated on their behalf before state and federal courts and agencies. As General Counsel, Mr. Easterling provides legal services to the Kentucky Personnel Board, prepares regulations for the Board, and represents the Board in court legal proceedings. He also presides over prehearing conferences and evidentiary hearings as an Administrative Law Judge.

Since Mr. Easterling became an Ethics Officer in 2017, he has demonstrated a remarkable concern for ensuring that his agency not only follows the Ethics Code, but also operates above the dictates of the Code. Mr. Easterling recently oversaw the election of members to the Kentucky Personnel Board and implemented policies and procedures to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the process. Mr. Easterling has also been very helpful and accommodating to the Commission staff and to the work of this Commission. He has truly demonstrated a personal concern for the integrity of his agency and the important work that it performs.

Mr. Easterling obtained his undergraduate degree from Berea College and his law degree from the Appalachian School of Law, where he received the Presidential and the Trustee's Scholarships. After completing his legal studies, he served as a law clerk to Deputy Justice Will T. Scott on the Supreme Court of Kentucky. Stafford volunteers his time to several non-profit organizations and enjoys fine dining, drinking fine bourbon, and a great card game.