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KENTUCKY REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

Frankfort, KY, September 18, 2014 – Kentucky Registry of Election Finance board chairman Craig C. Dilger announced at a board meeting held today that executive director Sarah M. Jackson would be retiring effective November 1, 2014. Jackson, 57, who has served as executive director of the agency since 1999, oversees the day-to-day activities of the Registry, the bi-partisan agency charged with enforcing state campaign finance laws.



“Sarah has been a tremendous asset to the agency and a true professional as Executive Director. The agency is stronger for it,” said Dilger. “Much of the success the agency has enjoyed is as a result of her vision and hard work, and our regulated community and the public have greater respect for the Registry because of her time here. I can’t think of a harder working public servant. I know the board members and staff will miss her leadership but we’re fortunate we had Sarah at the Registry as long as we did.”

During Jackson’s tenure as executive director, the agency expanded its program enabling the electronic transmittal of election finance reports and implemented an online searchable database of campaign finance reporting data; expanded candidate and committee training and created an online training tutorial; established a highly acclaimed, user-friendly agency website, including a recent re-launch in June 2014; staffed the agency’s first-ever bi-partisan task force to study and recommend comprehensive legislative election finance initiatives; created a staff and board member orientation program; established a statewide candidate and slate training program; planned, coordinated and hosted the regional Heartland Conference in Louisville in 2013; negotiated the first pilot project partnership of its kind in the country with the Federal Election Commission to provide public access online to a searchable agency legal case database; and increased agency participation in speaking events and training opportunities at local, state and national levels.

Jackson advanced the agency's recognition at the national level by participation in the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws ("COGEL"), an international organization for those with responsibilities or interests in governmental ethics, elections, campaign finance, lobbying and freedom of information. She was elected President of COGEL in 2009, and served throughout the years in various capacities on the organization's steering and program committees.

A native Kentuckian, Jackson previously served as general counsel for Kentucky's Cabinet for Workforce Development from 1998 to 1999. She served from 1996 to 1998 as director of the Division of Charitable Gaming in the Kentucky Justice Cabinet, having also been selected as assistant director at the inception of the Division of Charitable Gaming in 1994. She was an assistant attorney general from 1982-1986 before joining the law firm of McBrayer, McGinnis, Leslie and Kirkland in its Frankfort office.

The Registry board appointed Rebecca Feland, of Lawrenceburg, the agency's budget analyst, to the position of Interim Executive Director effective on Jackson's retirement pending the hiring of a permanent Executive Director. Chairman Dilger stated that it is expected that the search process will take several months, adding that the position will be advertised widely and that details regarding the position and the search process will be available on the agency's website.

The Registry is charged with administering Kentucky's campaign finance laws, including those relating to all candidates who are running for election in 2014. Kentucky law requires disclosure by a candidate of contributions to and expenditures by the campaign.

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