

Worthy of Note

Women who are making a difference in the commercial and public life of Kentucky

By LaneReport.com Staff

Our occasional feature, Worthy of Note — Top Women in Business, highlights some of the women around Kentucky who are making an impact in business, the professions, politics and economic development. The intent is to recognize not the household names but those in key roles whose work ethic and body of work are making important contributions to commerce in the commonwealth.

Alison Lundergan Grimes

Title/Company: Kentucky's 76th [Secretary of State](#)

How long at company/position: I was elected on Nov. 6, 2011, and took the oath of office on Jan. 2, 2012.

Previous jobs/positions: Business litigation associate, Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC (June 2004-February 2011); president, Women Lawyer's Association of the Fayette County Bar (January 2009-January 2011)

Top accomplishment: I was so excited to be elected in November 2011 as Kentucky's 76th Secretary of State, making me Kentucky's only current female constitutional officer and the nation's youngest female secretary of state.

Education: B.A., political science, Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn.; Juris Doctorate, cum laude, American University, Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C.

Born in Maysville, Ky.; currently reside in Lexington

Person(s) who most influenced or mentored me: I have been surrounded all my life by strong, inspiring women, from my family to mentors such as Gov. Martha Lane Collins. They have proven to me that I can accomplish anything.

What inspires/drives me: Two things motivate me every day to work hard for the people of Kentucky. First, I was raised to believe in the importance of public service. Second, the influence of intelligent, compassionate, motivated women has been a fact of life for me. But I became concerned women were underrepresented in state government because 51 percent of Kentucky's population is women, but women comprise less than 20 percent of Kentucky's constitutional offices. I strive every day to exemplify the strong women whose integral role in the success of our state is not adequately reflected in Frankfort.

Hobby/interests/volunteer work: It is important to be involved in your community. I grew up serving meals for the Salvation Army and continue that. I serve on the board of God's Pantry Food Bank, which assists more than 200,000 each year. I am committed to the Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington.

Currently reading and/or recent movie/play/concert attended: Kentucky has a lot of great performing



arts venues and I take advantage whenever I have the opportunity. I recently saw “Come Fly Away” at the Lexington Opera House, and I look forward to seeing the Black Jacket Symphony there soon.

My biggest challenge and how I overcame it: Running for a statewide office is a full-time job; it takes a tremendous amount of work. It was challenging to stay focused on the big picture and not get lost in day-to-day details. Once I realized how much other people truly wanted to help make a positive difference, it became easier, and together, we accomplished something great.

My advice to younger women in business: You cannot achieve your goals without working hard and taking risks, but you don’t have to do it alone. Learn from the examples of those who have preceded you and never be afraid to ask questions or ask for help.