



## Finalists for the 2017 Vic Hellard Jr. Award

*The 2017 Vic Hellard Jr. Award will honor a nonpartisan Legislative Research Commission staff member who exemplifies high standards in service to the Kentucky General Assembly. The award is named in memory and recognition of longtime LRC Director Vic Hellard Jr., who was a champion of legislative independence and played an instrumental role in the modernization of the legislative institution and nonpartisan staffing.*



**Sheila Mason** is a veteran Legislative Research Commission staff member who has held many key positions since joining the agency as an Analyst on the Program Review and Investigations Staff in 1980. Since then, she has since served as a Committee Staff Administrator and Assistant Director. As the current Legislative Record Compiler, she has worked long hours to ensure that citizens and legislators all have accessible and accurate accounts of General Assembly actions. Mason has also served as Legislative Intern Coordinator since 2002, helping hundreds of interns go into the world as ambassadors for the work of the General Assembly, public service and the

Commonwealth. A letter nominating Mason for the Hellard Award describes her as “an unsung wonder of LRC who works tirelessly and calmly behind the scenes to promote LRC and its role in government, to uphold the institution of the legislative branch, to encourage and facilitate public engagement and dialogue, and to enhance the reputation of the agency.”

**Anita Muckelroy** first entered the LRC as an intern in 1980 and was quickly captivated by the idealistic notion that serving her state as a legislative staffer would be fulfilling work. She returned to the agency in 1985 after obtaining her law degree and began a career in which she became a highly respected administrator, manager and valued confidant to both legislators and staff. She held a number of positions with the LRC before becoming Assistant Director for Legislative Support Services in 2006, a position that fit well with her work ethic and personality and allowed her to mentor a number of workers who developed into key legislative staff. Anita, who passed away earlier this year after a brief illness, is remembered for her generous and outgoing nature and for being a firm supervisor who believed deeply in LRC's mission and history.



As noted in a letter nominating Muckelroy for the Vic Hellard Jr. Award: "No legislator for whom she has worked, or LRC staff person with whom she has worked, would question her superior competence and professionalism, or the dedication, integrity and dignity that distinguished her."



**Joel Redding** has been at the forefront of the innovations and technological advances that make a modern-day Legislature run smoothly, with more opportunities than ever for citizen engagement. Although Joel leads a tech team that handles many complex assignments and tight deadlines that are crucial to the smooth functioning of the General Assembly, he is known for a calm and steady demeanor that inspires the confidence of his coworkers. Since arriving here in 1995, Joel has served as a Programmer, Webmaster, and Deputy to the Chief Information Officer before becoming the agency's Chief Information Officer in 2016. Even though his job requires a focus on large projects and big-picture items, he's also known

for a hands-on approach and giving constant attention to the details that must be minded to keep the General Assembly's technological infrastructure operating smoothly. As noted in Redding's nomination for the Vic Hellard Jr. Award, his strengths are also apparent on a personal level. According to the nomination, Redding "has a sense of humor, he remains grounded, and maintains never-failing courtesy and friendliness."

*The winner of the 2017 Vic Hellard Jr. Award will be announced later this month.*