

Lawmakers name Comstock new LRC Director

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

Katie C. Comstock, an accomplished attorney with nearly two decades of experience in Kentucky government, was appointed Wednesday, July 8 as the next Director for the Legislative Research Commission (LRC).

Comstock has served as LRC's Deputy Director for Committee and Staff Coordination since 2024, spearheading committee operations and overseeing more than 80 nonpartisan staff and bill drafters. She first joined the organization in 2005 as a committee analyst and



Katie C. Comstock

later worked as a budget reviser, fiscal analyst, and Judiciary Committee Staff Administrator.

During her tenure in state government, Comstock has also served as the Director of the Kentucky Administrative Office of the Courts, overseeing the administrative arm of Kentucky's unified court system and supporting the activities of nearly 3,300 employees and more than 400 elected officials.

"I was fortunate to start my career at LRC, and I consider it my professional home," Comstock said. "We have incredible talent

here, and a strong culture of public service throughout the organization. I look forward to building on that tradition."

LRC serves as the administrative and research arm of the Kentucky General Assembly. It's governing committee — comprised of majority and minority leaders from both the Senate and House of Representatives — approved the appointment at a regular meeting Wednesday, July 8.

Comstock will succeed current Director Jay D. Hartz, who announced his retirement last year. Her appointment takes effect Aug. 1, and Hartz will remain with LRC through the end of July.

"Ms. Comstock brings exceptional expertise, steady leadership, and a deep commitment to serving the people of Kentucky," said House Speaker David W. Osborne. "Her experience and her willingness to engage thoughtfully with legislators and citizens alike make her uniquely prepared to guide the Legislative Research Commission. I am confident she will empower an already outstanding staff and help ensure that the law-making branch of our state government remains strong, responsive, and firmly focused on the needs of Kentuckians."

Senate President Robert Stivers said Comstock's experience and steward-

ship made her an obvious choice for the job.

"She's a steady presence with an unmatched wealth of knowledge and an unwavering commitment to the success of the institution," Stivers said. "She is also relentless in upholding LRC's values and placing its nonpartisan mission first and foremost."

Over her career, Comstock has held key positions in all three branches of state government — executive, legislative, and judicial — and will step into her new role with extensive expertise in legislative procedure, government

operations, staff workflow, and fiscal management.

Her efforts at LRC have focused on championing a culture of accountability and professionalism and aligning staff performance with organizational goals and legislative priorities.

Comstock earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from DePauw University in 2001 and graduated cum laude from the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law, where she earned a Juris Doctor in 2005. She lives in Lexington with her husband, Kris, and two children, Cooper and Claire.

Coleman calls for tougher action on robocalls

BY PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

FRANKFORT — Attorney General Russell Coleman announced last week Kentucky has joined a 48-state coalition to further crackdown on scam calls and texts.

A bipartisan coalition of AGs is calling on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to strengthen rules that would cut off scammers' access to legitimate telephone numbers. Without that access, scammers can't use real numbers to deceive and scam people.

Fraudsters often purchase legitimate phone numbers and use them to

make robocalls and send texts. In the past, scammers would illegally "spoof" phone numbers to make calls appear legitimate. After the federal government and state attorneys general took action in 2021, scammers are not as easily able to spoof numbers. However, the problem persists.

According to Robocall Index, 323.4 million robocalls were placed to Kentucky during the first six months of this year.

"These con-artists continue to target Kentuckians in hopes of scamming them out of our hard-earned money," Coleman said. "Our Office will con-

tinue to collaborate with partners who are dedicated to protecting our people."

The AGs are asking the federal government to do more, including requiring companies that purchase and resell phone numbers in North America to meet stronger certification rules, block the sale of phone numbers to entities that aren't tied to a calling or texting service and restrict the offering of trial numbers to discourage scammers from taking advantage of them.

Coleman joined the Colorado, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania led letter

along with the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Kentucky joins states in 23andMe agreement

BY TOM LATEK
KENTUCKY TODAY

FRANKFORT — Attorney General Russell Coleman announced on Monday that Kentuckians who had their personal information compromised will be compensated following a settlement with the U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee for 23andMe.

Coleman joined 41 other attorneys general to resolve allegations stemming from a 2023 data breach that compromised the genetic data of 6.9 million customers worldwide.

The states have

approved claims totaling \$150 million, but the bankrupt company does not have enough assets to satisfy all creditors. A payment of \$18 million will be made immediately. Of the \$18 million, Kentucky will receive \$259,375.

"Kentuckians deserve to have their most sensitive personal data kept safe. When companies like 23andMe fail to maintain proper security practices, our office will take action," Coleman said.

In October 2023, genetic testing company 23andMe announced a data breach had affected 6.9 million of their consumers, including

69,188 in Kentucky. The breach exposed a wide range of data about 23andMe customers, including genetic ancestry information, and subsets of this data were subsequently published for sale on the dark web.

An investigation by attorneys general found 23andMe failed to employ safeguards such as multifactor authentication to investigate unusual login patterns including a massive spike in login attempts, and to properly review and test design features.

In March 2025, 23andMe filed for

bankruptcy protection, and states subsequently filed claims related to the data breach investigation. As part of the bankruptcy proceedings, the assets — notably 23andMe's consumer data — were sold to TTAM Research Institute with terms of sale including data security requirements. These terms ensure TTAM Research Institute, now reregistered as 23andMe Research Institute, will be a safer custodian of genetic data moving forward.

Coleman has issued a consumer alert to encourage Kentuckians to delete their 23andMe data.

SEC commissioner acknowledges breakup talks

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Southeastern Conference Commissioner Greg Sankey said Monday that leaders of the powerhouse league — some of them frustrated over the changes upending their industry — are having "real" conversations about breaking away from the rest of college sports, though that is not the preferred solution.

"They're real," Greg Sankey said Monday of talks with school presidents involving the SEC separating itself from the rest of the NCAA. "They've opined about the frustrations that bring them to the point of saying we should look at something significantly different."

Sankey's 45-minute meeting with reporters to kick off SEC football media days detailed the several issues that college sports is trying to find solutions for: Congressional legislation, litigation stemming from the new five-year eligibility rule, the future of the College Football Playoff and an overall lack of transparency regarding name, image and likeness payments to players.

Sankey acknowledged the conference's unhappiness with the handling of all those issues, but also touted the league's 13

national championships won last season across a variety of sports as a key reason it's in no rush to move away from the current framework.

"There is meaning and value and I do think a national expectation that we participate in a national organization," he said. "But that national organization must function in a healthy manner; otherwise, that simmering will continue."

The SEC and Big Ten produced a 10-point paper about changes they would like to see to the Protect College Sports Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation in the Senate. The SEC and Big Ten are negotiating with lawmakers over potential tweaks.

Tennessee chancellor Donde Plowman, the chair of the SEC presidents, released a statement saying conference leaders "have provided feedback from the perspective of university leaders who are trying to navigate the current state of college athletics."

The SEC argues the bill does not go far enough in limiting the possibility of lawsuits against conferences and schools, and also needs better language to preempt state laws in favor of a national one regarding the tens of millions in NIL payments now so common at the top

of college sports.

Sankey called the rollout of the recent NCAA rule that rewrote eligibility standards and has induced lawsuits — players mainly get five years to play five seasons — "magnifies frustration" among some in the SEC. Plowman said the SEC "applauded" how transfers and eligibility

were addressed in the Senate bill.

"That means student-athletes would not be able to transfer every year, putting their educations and team dynamics at risk — or toggle back and forth between professional teams and university teams with no intention of getting a degree," she said.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Child Find for Children with Disabilities in Need of Special Education or 504 Services
Child Find
The Trimble County School District keeps educational records in a secure location in each school and Board office.

The Trimble County School District obtains written consent from a parent or eligible student (age 18 or who is attending a postsecondary institution), before disclosing personally identifiable information to an entity or individual not authorized to receive it under FERPA.

For students who have been determined eligible for Special Education, educational records will be destroyed at the request of the parents when they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. The Trimble County School District may destroy the educational records of a child without parent request three (3) years after they are no longer needed to provide educational programs or services. Parents are advised that data contained in the records may later be needed for Social Security benefits or other purposes. The Trimble County School District may retain, for an indefinite period of time, a record of the student's name, address, telephone number, grades, attendance records, classes attended, grade level completed, and year completed.

Children eligible for Special Education include those children with disabilities who have autism, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, emotional-behavior disability, hearing impairment, mental disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, or visual impairment and who because of such an impairment need Special Education services.

Children eligible for 504 services include those children in a public elementary and secondary education program who have a current physical or mental impairment that currently substantially limits some major life activity which causes the student's ability to access the school environment or school activities to be substantially limited.

Children eligible for the State-Funded Preschool program include three- and four-year-old children identified with disabilities and four-year-old children who are at-risk, as defined by federal poverty levels up to 160%. Preschool children eligible for special education must have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) instead of a 504 plan to receive State-Funded Preschool program services.

The Trimble County School District has an ongoing "Child Find" system, which is designed to locate, identify and evaluate any child residing in a home, facility, or residence within its geographical boundaries, age three (3) to twenty-one (21) years, who may have a disability and in need of Special Education or 504 services. This includes children who are not in school; those who are in public, private, or home school; those who are highly mobile such as children who are migrant or homeless; and those who are advancing from grade to grade, who may need but are not receiving Special Education or 504 services.

The Trimble County School District's "Child Find" system includes children with disabilities attending private or home schools within the school district boundaries who may need special education services.

The Trimble County School District will make sure any child enrolled in its district who qualifies for Special Education or 504 services, regardless of how severe the disability, is provided appropriate Special Education or 504 services at no cost to the parents of the child.

Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, and concerned citizens are urged to help the Trimble County School District find any child who may have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. The District needs to know the name and age, or date of birth of the child; the name, address, and phone number(s) of the parents or guardian; the possible disability; and other information to determine if Special Education or 504 services are needed.

Letters and phone calls are some of the ways the Trimble County School District collects the information needed. The information the school District collects will be used to contact the parents of the child and find out if the child needs to be evaluated or referred for Special Education or 504 services.

If you know of a child who lives within the boundaries of the Trimble County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education or 504 services, please call Trimble County Board of Education or send the information to:

Director of Special Education
Trimble County Schools
116 Wentworth Ave.
Bedford, KY 40006
(502) 255-5100 ext. 1024

Section 504 Coordinator
Trimble County Schools
116 Wentworth Ave.
Bedford, KY 40006
(502) 255-5100 ext. 1024

If you know of a child who attends a private or home school within the boundaries of the Trimble County School District, who may have a disability, and may need but is not receiving Special Education services, please call Trimble County Board of Education or send the information to:

Director of Special Education
Trimble County Schools
116 Wentworth Ave.
Bedford, KY 40006
9502) 255-5100 ext. 1024

"Child Find" activities will continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Trimble County School District will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education or 504 services. Any information the District collects through "Child Find" is maintained confidentially.

Written Policies and Procedures have been developed which describe the District's requirements regarding the confidentiality of personally identifiable information and "Child Find" activities. There are copies in the Principal's office of each school, and in the Board of Education office. Copies of these Policies and Procedures may be obtained by contacting:

Kerrie Stewart
Director of Pupil Personnel
Trimble County Schools
116 Wentworth Ave.
(502) 255-5100 ext. 1012

The District office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
The Trimble County School District provides a public notice in the native language or other mode of communication of the various populations in the geographical boundaries of the District to the extent feasible.
If you know of someone who may need this notice translated to another language, given orally, or delivered in some other manner or mode of communication, please contact the Director of Pupil Personnel, the Director of Special Education or the Section 504 Coordinator at the address or phone number listed above for the Trimble County Schools.
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