

**From:** [HughesThurston, Lindsay](#)  
**To:** [Andrea Adams](#); [FCBA Info](#)  
**Subject:** 2026 Citizen Lawyer Award  
**Date:** Monday, February 23, 2026 3:22:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Good afternoon.

It is my honor to nominate Hon. Daniel “Danny” P. Murphy for the FCBA Citizen Lawyer Award. I cannot think of anyone more deserving of this recognition. Danny has given himself tirelessly to our profession for decades. But most poignant in my mind was his years of esteemed service with the University of Kentucky Rosenberg College of Law. During his tenure, Danny was on the front lines of influencing the future of the legal system. Day after day, Danny helped shape legal minds and teach by example through his dedicated commitment to our community in his multiple leadership roles in and around Central Kentucky. Danny is most deserving and worthy of our local bar’s accolades for all of his important work.

I am happy to answer any questions, if necessary.

Thank you!

LHT

Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston  
Fayette County District Court, Div. 3  
150 North Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507  
859-246-2247



### **Kentucky Court of Justice Confidentiality Notice**

**This message and/or attachment is intended only for the addressee and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or proprietary work product. If you are not the intended recipient, or an authorized employee, agent or representative of the intended recipient, do not read, copy, retain or disseminate this message or any attachment. Do not forward this message and attachment without the express written consent of the sender. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete all copies of the message and any attachment. Transmission or misdelivery shall not constitute waiver of any applicable legal privilege.**



**From:** [Stepp, Whitney L.](#)  
**To:** [Andrea Adams](#); [FCBA Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Melissa Moore Murphy](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Citizen Lawyer Award  
**Date:** Friday, February 20, 2026 3:28:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [img-b3a32e71-0bfd-42f8-ad26-cf507b82c0a8](#)

---

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my honor to recommend Daniel P. Murphy Jr., whom I will always refer to as Dean Murphy, for the 2026 FCBA Citizen Lawyer Award. Long before stepping into his administrative role at the UK Rosenberg College of Law, Dean Murphy distinguished himself professionally, but it is his 15-year tenure at UK Law that defines his extraordinary impact on me and so many others. Any student who graduated during that time can share a story of his encouragement, leadership, and personal investment in their success. He was deeply committed to creating meaningful pro bono, clerkship, and community engagement opportunities that connected students to the practicing bar and instilled in us a lasting sense of professional responsibility. He does not simply build programs—he builds people. When I was a student, one of fewer than ten Black students in my graduating class and often the only person of color in the room, Dean Murphy’s office and steady presence became a place of safety and belonging. He made me feel seen and valued, not by lowering expectations, but by challenging and uplifting me with fairness, empathy, and strength. His mentorship had a direct and lasting impact on my career trajectory, and his support did not end at graduation; he has continued to champion me in my professional path, from my political campaign to my nonprofit work. His steadfast devotion to his family further reflects the compassion and character he models so effortlessly. Dean Murphy’s influence transcends any single law school or law firm—he has shaped lives, including mine, in ways that endure. I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.



## Whitney Stepp - Gay

### Associate General Counsel

University of Kentucky  
Office of Legal Counsel  
Student Success & Academics  
301 Main Building 40506  
859-562-0239  
[whitney.stepp@uky.edu](mailto:whitney.stepp@uky.edu)

*Although you may receive this email  
after work hours, on the weekend,  
or while on vacation, please  
understand that I have no expectation  
that you will read or reply to emails  
during your personal time.*

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY: The contents of this email and any attachments are confidential and are intended solely for the addressee(s). The information contained in this email may also be legally privileged. It may also contain student educational records, protected health information, patient safety work product, personally identifiable information, or personal information protected from disclosure under federal or state law. If you have received this email in error, any use, reproduction, or dissemination of this email is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately notify the sender by email, contact the Chief Privacy Officer at (859) 323-1184 and delete this message and its attachments, if any. Receipt by anyone other than the intended recipient is not a waiver of any legal privilege or protection from disclosure.

---

**From:** Murphy, Melissa <MelissaMurphy@kycourts.net>

**Date:** Friday, February 20, 2026 at 2:22 PM

**To:** Andrea Adams <andrea.adams@fcba.com>, info@fcba.com <info@fcba.com>

**Cc:** HughesThurston, Lindsay <LindsayHughesThurston@kycourts.net>, Brian Powers <bpowers@mcbayerfirm.com>, Sharon Price <sharon.price@commaction.org>, Routt, Thalethia E. <thalethia.routt@uky.edu>, La Toi Lampkin Mayo <lmayo@littler.com>, Eason, Amy C. <amy.eason@uky.edu>, caross0@aol.com <caross0@aol.com>, Stepp, Whitney L. <whitney.stepp@uky.edu>, dtaylor@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov <dtaylor@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov>, Laurel Martin <laurel@jalexington.org>

**Subject:** RE: Citizen Lawyer Award

**CAUTION: External Sender**

Thank you for your quick response.

I would like to nominate, Daniel P. Murphy, Jr., Vice President and Personal Trust Officer – Central Bank, for the Citizen Lawyer Award.

I would like to nominate him because of his 15 years of service to our legal community as Assistant Dean of Community Engagement and Operations at the J. David Rosenberg College of Law. During that time, he orchestrated a more robust and consistent pro bono and community engagement connection between the Law School and Fayette County legal community, while designing the 1<sup>st</sup> Pro Bono and Recognition Program. He was the critical leader and point person in curating community and college wide educational lectures and visits, including the Lessons and Law Program, the Heyburn Initiative, and Ray Lectures, which have welcomed a U.S. Attorney General and 4 U.S. Supreme Court Justices. He partnered with Lexington and statewide law firms and public sector law offices to help staff summer clerk positions, including establishing the McBrayer Law Firm Visitorship and Summer Fellows Program. I believe his work showed his commitment to maintaining and improving the quality of legal practice and administration of justice.

Additionally, he has concerned himself with the quality of life for all residents of Fayette County through his service as the Immediate Past Chair for Community Action Council, Chair of Partners for Rural Impact, Commerce Lexington – Past Chair, Past Vice-Chair of Public Policy Committee, Past Vice-Chair Membership and Marketing, Immediate Past Chair of Junior Achievement of Bluegrass, as well as a member of Lexington Police Department Disciplinary

Review Board. From his involvement in the financial literacy education of our community's children to those individuals living in poverty, from our business community to our rural community members, Danny has consistently provided his time and talents to make the Central Kentucky community the best it can be.

I know my nomination may seem a bit bias, so I have cc'd others that would echo the same about Danny. For all the above reasons we wholeheartedly nominate Daniel P. Murphy, Jr. for the 2026 FCBA Citizen Lawyer Award. If more formal letters or his resume is required, please let me know at your convenience.

Thank you,

Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston, Fayette District Court  
Brian Powers, McBrayer Law Firm  
Sharon Price, Executive Director – Community Action Council  
Thaethia Routt, UK College of Law Alum, class of 2000  
LaToi Mayo, UK College of Law Alum, Class of 2001, Littler Law Firm  
Carlos Ross, Managing Attorney, LFUCG Department of Law  
John Hayne, Fayette County Attorney's Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant  
Amy Eason, UK College of Law, Director of Career Development  
Dreama Gentry, Executive Director, Partners for Rural Impact  
Whitney Stepp-Gay, UK College of Law Alum / Adjunct Professor  
Laurel Martin, President – Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass  
Lt. Dillon Taylor, Lexington Police Department

## **Melissa Moore Murphy**

District Court Judge | Fayette County  
150 N. Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507  
(859) 246-2247

---

**From:** Andrea Adams <andrea.adams@fcba.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 1:28 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Melissa <MelissaMurphy@kycourts.net>; info@fcba.com  
**Subject:** RE: Citizen Lawyer Award

**Note:** This email originated from outside the Kentucky Courts. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Judge Murphy,

We don't need a letter or resume; just an email with their name, firm if applicable, and a paragraph explaining why you are nominating them in that category.

Thank you,  
Andrea

---

**From:** Murphy, Melissa <[MelissaMurphy@kycourts.net](mailto:MelissaMurphy@kycourts.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 1:18 PM  
**To:** FCBA Info <[info@fcbacom](mailto:info@fcbacom)>  
**Subject:** Citizen Lawyer Award

I would like to nominate someone for this award. However what is needed to complete the nomination? Letter? Resume?

Please advise at your convenience.

Thank you,

**Melissa Moore Murphy**

District Court Judge | Fayette County  
150 N. Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507  
(859) 246-2247

**Kentucky Court of Justice Confidentiality Notice**

**This message and/or attachment is intended only for the addressee and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or proprietary work product. If you are not the intended recipient, or an authorized employee, agent or representative of the intended recipient, do not read, copy, retain or disseminate this message or any attachment. Do not forward this message and attachment without the express written consent of the sender. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete all copies of the message and any attachment. Transmission or misdelivery shall not constitute waiver of any applicable legal privilege.**

**From:** [Murphy, Melissa](#)  
**To:** [Andrea Adams](#); [FCBA Info](#)  
**Cc:** [HughesThurston, Lindsay](#); [Brian Powers](#); [Sharon Price](#); [Thalethia E.](#); [La Toi Lampkin Mayo](#); [amy.eason@uky.edu](mailto:amy.eason@uky.edu); [caross0@aol.com](mailto:caross0@aol.com); [Whitney Stepp](#); [dtaylor@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov](mailto:dtaylor@lexingtonpolice.ky.gov); [Laurel Martin](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Citizen Lawyer Award  
**Date:** Friday, February 20, 2026 2:22:47 PM

---

Thank you for your quick response.

I would like to nominate, Daniel P. Murphy, Jr., Vice President and Personal Trust Officer – Central Bank, for the Citizen Lawyer Award.

I would like to nominate him because of his 15 years of service to our legal community as Assistant Dean of Community Engagement and Operations at the J. David Rosenberg College of Law. During that time, he orchestrated a more robust and consistent pro bono and community engagement connection between the Law School and Fayette County legal community, while designing the 1<sup>st</sup> Pro Bono and Recognition Program. He was the critical leader and point person in curating community and college wide educational lectures and visits, including the Lessons and Law Program, the Heyburn Initiative, and Ray Lectures, which have welcomed a U.S. Attorney General and 4 U.S. Supreme Court Justices. He partnered with Lexington and statewide law firms and public sector law offices to help staff summer clerk positions, including establishing the McBrayer Law Firm Visitorship and Summer Fellows Program. I believe his work showed his commitment to maintaining and improving the quality of legal practice and administration of justice.

Additionally, he has concerned himself with the quality of life for all residents of Fayette County through his service as the Immediate Past Chair for Community Action Council, Chair of Partners for Rural Impact, Commerce Lexington – Past Chair, Past Vice-Chair of Public Policy Committee, Past Vice-Chair Membership and Marketing, Immediate Past Chair of Junior Achievement of Bluegrass, as well as a member of Lexington Police Department Disciplinary Review Board. From his involvement in the financial literacy education of our community's children to those individuals living in poverty, from our business community to our rural community members, Danny has consistently provided his time and talents to make the Central Kentucky community the best it can be.

I know my nomination may seem a bit bias, so I have cc'd others that would echo the same about Danny. For all the above reasons we wholeheartedly nominate Daniel P. Murphy, Jr. for the 2026 FCBA Citizen Lawyer Award. If more formal letters or his resume is required, please let me know at your convenience.

Thank you,

Judge Lindsay Hughes Thurston, Fayette District Court  
Brian Powers, McBrayer Law Firm  
Sharon Price, Executive Director – Community Action Council  
Thalethia Routt, UK College of Law Alum, class of 2000

LaToi Mayo, UK College of Law Alum, Class of 2001, Littler Law Firm  
Carlos Ross, Managing Attorney, LFUCG Department of Law  
John Hayne, Fayette County Attorney's Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant  
Amy Eason, UK College of Law, Director of Career Development  
Dreama Gentry, Executive Director, Partners for Rural Impact  
Whitney Stepp-Gay, UK College of Law Alum / Adjunct Professor  
Laurel Martin, President – Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass  
Lt. Dillon Taylor, Lexington Police Department

## **Melissa Moore Murphy**

District Court Judge | Fayette County  
150 N. Limestone  
Lexington, KY 40507  
(859) 246-2247

---

**From:** Andrea Adams <andrea.adams@fcba.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 1:28 PM  
**To:** Murphy, Melissa <MelissaMurphy@kycourts.net>; info@fcba.com  
**Subject:** RE: Citizen Lawyer Award

**Note:** This email originated from outside the Kentucky Courts. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Judge Murphy,

We don't need a letter or resume; just an email with their name, firm if applicable, and a paragraph explaining why you are nominating them in that category.

Thank you,  
Andrea

---

**From:** Murphy, Melissa <[MelissaMurphy@kycourts.net](mailto:MelissaMurphy@kycourts.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 20, 2026 1:18 PM  
**To:** FCBA Info <[info@fcba.com](mailto:info@fcba.com)>  
**Subject:** Citizen Lawyer Award

I would like to nominate someone for this award. However what is needed to complete the nomination? Letter? Resume?

Please advise at your convenience.

Thank you,

## **Melissa Moore Murphy**

District Court Judge | Fayette County

150 N. Limestone

Lexington, KY 40507

(859) 246-2247

### **Kentucky Court of Justice Confidentiality Notice**

**This message and/or attachment is intended only for the addressee and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or proprietary work product. If you are not the intended recipient, or an authorized employee, agent or representative of the intended recipient, do not read, copy, retain or disseminate this message or any attachment. Do not forward this message and attachment without the express written consent of the sender. If you have received this message in error, please contact the sender immediately and delete all copies of the message and any attachment. Transmission or misdelivery shall not constitute waiver of any applicable legal privilege.**