

## **J. Michael Brown**

Justice and Public Safety Secretary J. Michael Brown is no newcomer to public service. A former district court judge in Jefferson County, he was law director for the City of Louisville, an assistant commonwealth attorney, and served on the board of the Louisville Regional Airport Authority for 12 years – six as the board's chair. During that time he guided the authority through major expansion and construction initiatives.

A native New Yorker, Brown came to Kentucky while serving as a captain with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell. He later earned his law degree from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law, and has served as a partner at the Louisville law firms of Stites and Harbison and Wyatt, Tarrant and Combs.

He is a former board member of Republic Bank and several Louisville-area civic groups and non-profit organizations, including Metro United Way and the Louisville chapter of the American Red Cross. He was elected the first African American president of the Louisville Bar Association, and chaired the Kentucky Bar Association's Task Force on Minorities.

Secretary Brown has received numerous awards for his civic contributions, including the Trailblazer Award, presented by the Louisville Bar Association for his commitment to diversity in the legal profession. Similarly, the DuPont Legal Network recognized him by creating the J. Michael Brown Service Award in his honor, which is awarded annually to an attorney who demonstrates support for diversity in the law. He was also selected as the Brandeis School of Law Alumni Fellow in 2000, and was named a Henry Toll Fellow in 2011.