

ALBERT BENJAMIN CHANDLER III

Albert Benjamin Chandler III, 35, currently serves as Kentucky's State Auditor of Public Accounts. During his tenure, Ben has worked aggressively to restore people's faith in government. By exposing waste and mismanagement of public funds, he has shown that public officials will be held accountable for the tax dollars that are entrusted to them. Recognizing that government cannot meet the challenges before it until people's trust is restored, he has devoted his term to this end. The results have been dramatic. Ben has detected and reported \$78 million in mishandled and wasted public funds.

As State Auditor, Ben has established a proven track record of serving as a watchdog for the public. His drive to expose waste and mishandling of public funds has often placed him at odds with powerful interests--even those in his own political party. About his courage in fighting public corruption, the Courier-Journal said, "Mr. Chandler deserves credit for jumping into a cesspool that no other official dared enter." The Kentucky Post cited Ben's commitment to serving the taxpayers when it said, "... it's at least encouraging that... Mr. Chandler served to remind that some elected officials take their duty as public watchdogs seriously." And another Courier-Journal editorial noted Ben's independence and tenacity in fighting powerful interests: "Kentucky got rid of a self-serving lottery board, and Jefferson County got free of a venal sheriff, largely because Kentucky had a state auditor with the independence, power and resources to mount credible investigations of misconduct." Another cited his courage and leadership as State Auditor: "The professional staff of the auditor's office has been energized and empowered by Mr. Chandler's stewardship."

Ben has also made quality and efficiency the guidelines of his own office. In his first year as State Auditor, Ben reduced the number of administrative employees by 32 percent and cut operating costs by 21 percent--yet increased auditing capacity by 14 percent. The Governor's Commission on Quality and Efficiency, a cornerstone of Ben's campaign for State Auditor, targeted \$900 million in savings for state government. Ben received national recognition when he was named, because of his achievements, the recipient of the 1993-94 Achievement of the Year Award by the Association of Government Accountants.

In June 1993, Ben was selected as the 1993 Outstanding Young Lawyer by the Kentucky Bar Association's Young Lawyer Section. He earned his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1986 and was admitted to the Kentucky Bar that same year. Ben has practiced law in the Lexington office of Brown, Todd & Heyburn and with the Versailles firm of Reeves & Graddy. He is a member of the American, Kentucky, Woodford County and State Government Bar Associations. He formerly served as Secretary/Treasurer of the Woodford County Bar Association.

Ben graduated, with distinction, from the University of Kentucky with a B.A. in history. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Versailles with their children Lucie Brasher and Albert Benjamin IV.