

# 2023 ANNUAL SUMMARY

Fiscal Year 2023 | July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

## A Friend of the Court

Challenges to state laws and environmental regulations often involve complex legal and constitutional issues. Amicus curiae (“friend of the court”) briefs allow organizations with specialized knowledge to provide insight and legal arguments to the court, supplementing what is presented by the parties to the case. This year, KRC filed amicus briefs in several cases with significant implications for Kentuckians, including access to justice, judicial review of zoning decisions, and the protection of wetlands.

## Addressing Coal Mine Safety & Legacy Coal Ash Pollution

As we have since 1984, we vigilantly advocated for protection of human health and the environment from adverse effects of coal mining, coal combustion, and management of coal combustion wastes. In 2023, we submitted public comments on important proposed rulemakings by the EPA and Office of Surface Mining, to strengthen regulations relating to citizen complaints of mining violations and on the disposal of coal ash.

## Fighting for Clean & Affordable Energy

KRC continued to represent several coalitions of allied low-income, clean energy, and social and economic justice partners in cases before the Kentucky Public Service Commission, working to protect ratepayers and fighting for a cleaner, more sustainable, and more equitable energy future. Together with our clients and co-counsel at Earthjustice, we made significant progress in making utilities’ resource planning processes more meaningful, and in moderating and reducing rate impacts for the most vulnerable Kentuckians. In the first test case of a new law requiring utilities to seek approval from the PSC to close fossil fuel-fired electric generation, we supported the closure of several coal-fired electric generating units, while advocating for greater energy-efficiency and demand-side management.

## Advocating for Smart Environmental Policy in Frankfort

During the 2023 General Assembly Regular Session, we tracked, supported, and opposed bills and resolutions on environmental, energy, and governance issues. KRC also testified before committee on numerous bills, including against legislation weakening protection of endangered species and water quality, and advocating for stronger regulation of land application of municipal sewage treatment sludge, known as “biosolids.” We also shared action alerts and weekly updates to KRC newsletter subscribers, keeping you informed throughout the session.



# Holding Polluters Accountable

Federal and state agencies issue thousands of permits and authorizations each year, allowing pollution to enter our water, air, and land. The role of the public in the permitting process and in holding polluters and regulators accountable was thought by Congress to be critical to success in protecting the environment and human health under laws including the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act. Yet, in Kentucky, no more than a handful of proposed permits receive any public review, and even fewer are ever challenged.

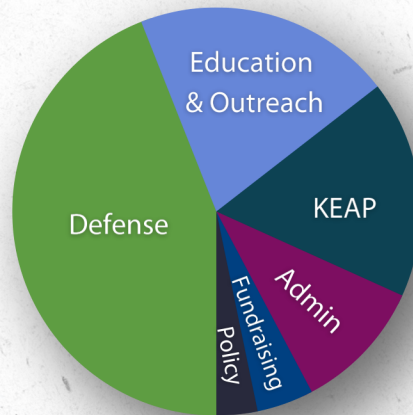
## Our new program is changing that.

Launched in January 2023, the Kentucky Environmental Accountability Project (KEAP) is a three-year initiative to advance environmental quality, health, and justice in Kentucky. KEAP combines meaningful public participation, science-backed information, and technical and legal expertise to ensure that Kentucky's environmental decisions protect public health and the environment.

We hired three staff members (Program Attorney Byron Gary, Associate Attorney Fellow Audrey Ernstberger, and Environmental Permitting Specialist Lesley Sneed) and gathered a group of peer organizations to support this project. Over the next two and half years, our network will increase meaningful community engagement in the public permitting process, conduct systematic reviews of proposed permits to identify deficiencies, and bring administrative and legal challenges as needed to ensure compliance with the environmental laws designed to protect Kentucky's citizens, communities, the environment, and our climate. As resources are allocated away from oversight and as existing laws face new challenges, effectively participating in the decisions of our regulatory agencies has never been more essential.

## Finances

<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$449,434.82</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Defense	\$199,095.62	44%
Education & Outreach	\$90,126.7	20%
KEAP	\$77,243.69	17%
Administration	\$47,540.64	11%
Fundraising	\$20,771.78	5%
Policy	\$14,157.81	3%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$448,936.21</b>	



## 2022 Award Winners

Congratulations to our 2022 award winners!

- Dr. Natasha DeJarnett was awarded the Sue Anne Salmon Community Advocacy Award for outstanding and extensive research and public discussion in the area of personal health, environmental justice, and climate change.
- John and Jean Rosenberg were awarded the Winnie Hepler Lifetime Achievement Award for their years of selfless advocacy in promotion of a more just and equal world.



Read our full 2023 Annual Report.

Visit [kyrc.org/about-us/annual-report](https://kyrc.org/about-us/annual-report) or scan the QR code.

**\$1,582,938**

The market value of legal services KRC provided in FY23 in advocacy of those living downhill, downwind, & downstream of pollution.

**20**

# of counties the legal team served.

**55**

# of legal matters on our docket.

**5,092**

Words of KRC testimony delivered during the 2023 Kentucky General Assembly.

**9**

# of PSC cases participated in during FY23.

**42**

Number of bills and resolutions KRC took a position on during the 2023 Kentucky General Assembly.