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## *Press Release*

### *October 25, 2002*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**COMMISSION DIRECTOR HONORED BY  
INTERNATIONAL ETHICS ORGANIZATION**

On October 1, 2002, David E. Freel, Executive Director of the Ohio Ethics Commission, was presented with the annual Outstanding Service Award by the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL). COGEL is an international organization composed of federal, state, local, and provincial agencies, and individuals, responsible for and interested in the administration and implementation of ethics, financial disclosure, elections, campaign finance, and freedom of information laws and provisions.

Mr. Freel was recognized for his past participation and leadership with the organization, including serving as President in 1997 and as a Steering Committee member from 1995 through 1997, participating as a speaker and moderator at numerous conferences, and for his efforts toward improving organizational efficiency and communication through technology, grant assistance, and long-range planning. The award was presented at the annual COGEL conference, by John Contino, the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission, who is former COGEL President himself and a past award recipient.

COGEL traces its origins to a December 1974 conference at the Watergate Hotel in Washington DC, organized by an ad hoc group of representatives of newly-formed federal and state ethics agencies.

Mr. Freel has been the Executive Director of the Ohio Ethics Commission since 1994. He has served in other prior capacities with the six-member, bi-partisan Commission, previously taught in the Clinical Programs of the College of Law at the Ohio State University, and practiced as a trial attorney with the Franklin County Public Defender's Office. As Executive Director of the Commission, he supervises a staff of twenty and

oversees the day-to-day responsibilities of the Commission. These responsibilities include: providing ethics advice to public officials and employees before they act; confidentially investigating the alleged unethical actions of state and local public servants; managing financial disclosure made by 10,500 public office holders; conducting public education and training; and supervising the administrative functions of the Commission.

The Commission administers Ohio's Ethics Law for most state and local public officials and employees. The Commission has been serving the public, and state and local governments, since its formation as part of the Ethics Law in 1973. For more information, the Commission's Web site is located at [www.ethics.state.oh.us](http://www.ethics.state.oh.us).