



Press Release

April 28, 2011

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES ADVISORY OPINIONS AND ANNOUNCES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At its meeting today, the Ohio Ethics Commission issued four advisory opinions and announced the hiring of a permanent Executive Director.

Advisory Opinion 2011-04 addressed the applicability of the conflict of interest law to community college officials and employees. Specifically, the opinion advises that officials and employees of a community college, except non-supervisory faculty members, are prohibited from soliciting or accepting travel reimbursement or honoraria from a publisher or other company doing or seeking to do business with the college. Further, the opinion outlined certain prohibitions on the acceptance of royalties for books or teaching aids. Community college officials and employees, except non-supervisory faculty members, may not accept royalties from publishers for books used in their classroom unless they withdraw from all decision-making concerning the selection of educational materials. The Advisory Opinion will soon be available on the Commission's web site.

In a separate action, the Commission issued a reconsideration opinion which concluded that the Ethics Law does not prohibit a member of the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) from selling services to governmental agencies on projects funded by OWDA funds. In the opinion, the Commission determined that the OWDA member would not be engaged in a public contract with OWDA, but rather with the local governmental authority seeking the grant or loan.

The Commission also issued two advisory opinions regarding potential conflicts of interest. In one opinion, the Commission opined that a county clerk of courts is not prohibited from working part-time as a real estate agent while serving as clerk of courts provided the clerk complies with the limited and prohibitions outlined in the Ohio Ethics Law. In the other

opinion, the Commission stated that the Ohio Ethics Law does not prohibit a city clerk of council from accepting tickets to a professional sporting event offered by a city council member because the clerk does not have authority to make decisions affecting the council member's personal interests.

Finally, the Commission announced that Paul Nick has been hired as the Commission's Executive Director. See [separate news release](#) for more information.