

Merom Brachman, *Chairman*
Maryann B. Gall, *Vice Chair*
Bruce E. Bailey
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ETHICS COMMISSION ELECTS OFFICERS AND REVIEWS REPORTS

At its meeting on February 6, 2014, the Ethics Commission unanimously re-elected Merom Brachman as Chairman and Maryann B. Gall as Vice Chair. Mr. Brachman is a Columbus businessman and a long-time member of the Ethics Commission. Ms. Gall is a tax attorney headquartered in Columbus and has served on the Commission since January 2011.

The Commission heard a report on annual year-end statistics, noting that in 2013, Commission staff produced 158 written staff advisory opinions, and guidance by electronic mail to more than 1,500 people. It responded to approximately 3,000 telephone inquiries seeking guidance and advice. Director Paul M. Nick noted that more than half of the telephone inquiries involved questions about financial disclosure requirements, and the remainder were split among other ethics-related topics such as revolving door, selling goods and services to public agencies, gifts, and nepotism questions.

The Commission also reviewed a report on educational outreach in 2013, noting that staff conducted 205 public appearances reaching an audience of almost 17,000 people including public officials and employees in state, county, city, and municipal government as well as private sector parties doing business with these entities.

The Commission also reminded public officials and employees that the deadline for filing financial disclosure statements for most filers this year is Tuesday, April 15, 2014. The Commission receives approximately 11,000 statements each year, and filers may file their statements [by mail](#) or electronically using the Commission's [online filing portal](#). A financial disclosure statement is a statement of personal financial interests which certain public officials must file annually. The form includes information such as sources of income, sources of gifts, debtors, creditors, and investments.

In other business, the Commission heard reports on complaints and pending investigations of alleged violations of the Ethics Law and related statutes.