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Megan C. Kelley, *Vice Chair*
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEWS YEAR-END REPORTS AND ELECTS OFFICERS

At its meeting on January 13, 2017, Ethics Commission staff reported to Commissioners on significant results of its work during calendar year 2016, including 172 investigations of alleged violations of the law, 28 of which were resolved through the Commission's settlement authority.

Selected reviews of the 183 written advisory opinions in 2016 pointed to responses from all sectors of state, including cities, counties, and townships. As reported by Executive Director Paul M. Nick, all responses to resolve questions of conflict of interest were issued within 15 days of receipt of the request.

Other statistics summarized for the Commission recorded 219 Ethics Law educational sessions held around the state as mandated by law, which had a total attendance of more than 17,000 people. Others were reached through new on demand online courses and webinars.

The Commission reviewed a staff report on 148 State Boards and Commissions evaluating whether their members may be relieved of filing annual financial disclosure reports with the Commission. The Chairman put on the agenda for the next meeting of the Commission February 13, 2017, consideration of steps on such changes where appropriate.

For current officers, the Ethics Commission unanimously re-elected Merom Brachman, a Columbus businessman and long time member, as Chair and named Megan C. Kelley as Vice Chair. She has served since early 2016 and is the Director of Public Policy for National Church Residences in Columbus.

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