



THE VOICE OF ETHICS

JUNE 2013

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION MEETINGS:

July 10, 2013 10 a.m.
August 15, 2013 10
a.m.

NEED MORE INFO?

Would you like to discuss a potential conflict of interest with an Advisory Attorney? Do you have any information you want to share with a Special Investigator? Interested in hosting an Ethics Education Session in your municipality or agency? Call the Ohio Ethics Commission at (614) 466-7090 or visit our web site at www.ethics.ohio.gov

Need more information or have an idea for an article?

Contact Susan Willeke
at
susan.willeke@ethics.ohio.gov



This Issue:

Sign up for an Ethics Webinar!
Public Official vs. Private Job
Reminder: Doing Business
with Retirement Systems

Ohio Ethics Law Webinars Begin Next Month—Sign up Today!

Just in case you missed it, the Ethics Commission announced its 2013 Webinar schedule! Webinar dates are listed below.

[Click here to register.](#)

- July 11, 2013 – 10 a.m.
- August 6, 2013 – 1 p.m.
- September 3, 2013 – 10 a.m.
- October 11, 2013 – 10 a.m.
- November 5, 2013 – 1 p.m.
- December 18, 2013 – 1 p.m.

FAQ of the Month

Can a public official or employee have a private job?

Yes, within limits. The Ohio Ethics Law does not prohibit public officials and employees from engaging in private outside employment or business activities provided that no conflict of interest exists or if the public servant is able to withdraw from consideration of matters that affect the private entity.

Further, there must be no misuse of the public office or employment. For example, the public servant cannot use public time, facilities, personnel, or resources in conducting private business; he cannot use his official title on private business cards or other written materials; he cannot use his relationship with other public servants to secure a favorable decision or action regarding his private interests; he cannot discuss, deliberate, or vote on any matter involving his private business; and he cannot use his public position or authority in any other way to secure a benefit for his outside employer or private business.

For more information, see Advisory Opinions [96-004](#) and [2008-02](#).

Retirement System Restrictions

In response to recent questions, the Ethics Commission is issuing a reminder to those who do business with or have interests before one of Ohio's five public retirement systems. The Ethics Law prohibits anyone other than the retirement system themselves from funding travel for retirement board members or employees. For more information, see this Information Sheet.