



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL MARC DANN CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

Former Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann was convicted today of criminal violations by Franklin County Municipal Court Judge Ted Barrows, resulting from a plea agreement with the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, and joint investigation with the Ohio Ethics Commission.

Dann was found guilty of knowingly making lodging and related living expense payments that resulted in improper supplemental compensation to Anthony Gutierrez and Leo Jennings, the General Services Director and the Director of Communications to the former Ohio Attorney General. Payments came from the Dann for Ohio campaign fund and the Mark Dann OAG Transition Corporation, and included a \$5000 "loan" from the Transition Corporation to Gutierrez. Serving as public employees, only the government and public can compensate officials and employees for their duties in order to protect the public against divided loyalties in their public servants. Both Gutierrez and Jennings had earlier been found guilty of receiving and not disclosing the benefit of the payments. The proceeds of the Transition account "loan" were used by Gutierrez for his private construction business. Gutierrez has also been found guilty of theft in office in misusing state equipment, time and personnel for that same business.

Dann, as former Attorney General, was also found guilty of knowingly filing false Financial Disclosure Statements in 2007 and 2008 with the Ohio Ethics Commission. Financial Disclosure Statements report financial holdings and potential sources of conflicts of interest for elected state, county and city office holders in Ohio and most state officials. Dann was convicted of failing to include payments from the Dann for Ohio Campaign Committee and the Dann OAG Transition Corporation for personal expenses. In addition, he was found guilty of failing to disclose the source of private aircraft transportation costs paid on his behalf in connection with attending a conference in January 2007.

Judge Barrows ordered Dann to pay \$500 and court costs on both charges. He also ordered Dann to perform 500 hours of community service by June of 2012, or risk maximum incarceration of 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine on both charges. In addition, under Ethics statutes, anyone found guilty of providing improper supplemental compensation is barred from holding any public office or employment, or position of public trust in the state, for seven years.

The Ohio Ethics Commission is an independent state agency that oversees the Ethics Law for all state and local public officials and employees, apart from those serving in the General Assembly and Judiciary, through advisory, education, financial disclosure, and investigative responsibilities. The Commission is 36 years old; created upon the enactment of the Ohio Ethics Law in 1973.