

Merom Brachman, *Chairman*  
Mark A. Vander Laan, *Vice Chairman*  
Bruce E. Bailey  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ETHICS COMMISSION REVIEWS YEAR-END STATISTICS**  
**AND ELECTS LEADERSHIP**

At its first 2024 meeting on January 26, the Ohio Ethics Commission reviewed staff reports on its activity in 2023. The Ethics Law authorizes the Commission to provide firm guidance on official actions and potential conflicts of interest. Staff issued 163 written opinions that provided timely guidance on complying with the Ethics Law. Along with State government requests, 75 percent of these opinions went to local officials and employees from counties, cities, villages, and townships around Ohio.

In responding to allegations of conflicts of interest and public contract violations, staff conducted 168 investigations, including 29 that were resolved by settlement agreements to stop improper conduct. Almost 90 percent of these investigations involved local officials and employees.

To aid in complying with the law, staff presented 167 in person trainings and 41 webinars, created a new one hour e-course, and developed customized e-training modules to target unique issues for different segments of the public sector.

In its annual selection of officers, the bipartisan Commission re-elected Merom Brachman (R-Bexley) as its Chairman and Mark Vander Laan (D-Cincinnati) as its Vice Chairman.

The Chairman noted, "The Commission continues to encourage strengthening the Ethics Law, in its work with the 88 County Prosecutors in Ohio, to enhance the penalties that apply to serious misconduct, including any improper actions of vendors to state and local government."

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