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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION DISCUSSES ADVISORY DRAFT AND WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

At its April 1, 2016 meeting, in addition to hearing reports on financial disclosure, education and confidential investigations, the Commission discussed Advisory Opinion Draft 2016-01 to offer advice to public officials who are also employed by nonprofit corporations.

The draft would expand on several advisory opinions issued in 2010 to Cuyahoga County Council candidates. In those opinions, the Commission stated that if a non-profit organization received 25 percent or more of its funding from a public contract, the non-profit may be considered "dependent" on the public contract. The draft opinion discussed at the Commission meeting seeks to further address the issue of financial dependency or proportionality of amounts of funding.

The Commission also welcomed Megan Kelley, Esq. of Dublin, Ohio, who succeeds the late Judge James Evans as a Democratic appointee to the Commission for a six-year term ending January 2022. Ms. Kelley is the Affordable Housing Closing Manager for National Church Residences, a nonprofit provider that also services vulnerable populations.

Today, Governor Kasich also filled the remaining Democratic appointment to the Commission with Mark Vander Laan, Esq., of Cincinnati, Ohio, a partner at the Dinsmore & Shohl LLP law firm. He teaches legal ethics at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and has a long career in business fiduciary litigation, white collar crime and investigations. He was appointed to the remainder of a term ending January 2021.

The Commission's next meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2016 in Room 2 of the second level of the William Green Building, 30 W. Spring Street, Columbus.

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