



# THE VOICE OF ETHICS

## MARCH 2013

### COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND THE ETHICS LAW

The Ohio Ethics Law governs more than half a million public officials and employees serving agencies throughout Ohio, such as those serving public school districts, public universities, and community colleges. The Ethics Commission has often been asked if the Ohio Ethics Law also applies to community schools. The answer is “yes.” In a 2010 advisory opinion, the Commission noted that the laws governing community schools require that their school officials and employees, like other public school employees, are subject to the Ohio Ethics Law.

Specifically, governing board members, officers, and employees of community schools are subject to the entire Ethics Laws and related statutes, which include restrictions regarding:

- revolving door;
- confidentiality;
- conflicts of interest;
- representation;
- public contracts; and
- supplemental compensation.

Please note that teachers who do not perform and have no authority to perform supervisory or administrative functions are exempted from revolving door and conflict of interest prohibitions. However, they are subject to every other aspect of the Ethics Law. For more information, contact the Ethics Commission at (614) 466-7090.

### CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SEMINARS



As a member of the Continuing Legal Education Coalition, the Ohio Ethics Commission holds ethics and professionalism CLE seminars each year. The sessions are designed for public practice attorneys, are free of charge and offer one hour of ethics, one hour of professionalism and 30 minutes of substance abuse credit. The Commission is conducting sessions this year in locations throughout the state. Click here for more information and to register.



## FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE FILING IS ONLINE

The Ohio Ethics Commission is pleased to announce that public officials and employees who are required to file annual financial disclosure statements now have the option to file electronically.

A financial disclosure statement is a statement of personal financial interests which certain public officials must annually file. The form includes information such as sources of income, sources of gifts, debtors, creditors, and investments. Approximately 11,000 public officials and employees are required to file disclosure statements each year.

Until this year, the form could only be submitted to the Ethics Commission in paper format. With the unveiling of the online filing system, filers can now choose to file in paper format or electronically through the Ethics Commission's web site. Statutorily-mandated filing fees also can be submitted online with the form.

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