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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OHIO DIRECTOR NAMED PRESIDENT OF INTERNATIONAL ETHICS ORGANIZATION

David Freel, executive director of the Ohio Ethics Commission, was named President of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL), at COGEL's 18th Annual Conference in Philadelphia Pennsylvania.

GOGEL consists of nearly 150 agencies from throughout the United States and Canada that regulate campaign financing, ethics, lobbying and freedom of information laws. Members include federal agencies, such as the California State Senate Legislative Ethics Committee, the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board, the Connecticut Freedom of Information Commission and the New York City Campaign Finance Board.

GOGEL publishes a quarterly newsletter The Guardian, which summarizes new developments in the various fields. Each year COGEL holds an annual conference attended by 300 delegates. This year's conference in Philadelphia featured speeches by Robert Frowick, elections supervisor for the Bosnian elections; former U.S. Attorney General and Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh; and Anthony Stephan King, Professor of Government at the University of Essex in England.

David Freel will head a ten person steering committee that directs the organization. The steering committee will also plan next year's conference which will be held in Edmonton, Alberta, coordinate COGEL publications and make awards to recipients who express the highest ideals in the field of ethics.

David Freel has been with the Ohio Ethics Commission since 1983 and has served as executive director for the past three years. Prior to joining the Commission, he was a faculty member at the Ohio State University College of Law Clinical Programs from 1979 through

1983.