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Paul M. Nick  
*Executive Director*

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## A Message from the Ohio Ethics Commission Director Paul M. Nick

On behalf of the Ohio Ethics Commission, please know that our thoughts are with you and your families and colleagues during these uncertain times. Like you, I am concerned by the impact the novel COVID-19 virus is having on our state, our nation, and our world. I wanted to update everyone about our commitment to our mission to ensure that government business is conducted with impartiality and integrity.

We continue to monitor the directives and guidance from Governor Mike DeWine's office, the Ohio Department of Health, and the Center for Disease Control and have implemented teleworking protocols to protect the health of our staff and the community. When you call our office number at (614) 466-7090, your call will be responded to and, as needed, forwarded to the Commission professional who can best serve you. Rest assured that your calls and emails will be promptly returned.

To better assist you, I wanted to highlight some of our available resources:

### Advice

The Commission daily provides guidance to better understand and comply with the Ohio Ethics law, which, in turn, protects taxpayers from conflicts of interest. If you have questions regarding the law or need guidance, please visit our [Advisory section of our webpage](#) for more information or call our office and ask to speak with an advisory attorney.

### Investigations

Most public officials and employees act in compliance with the law. However, our team of investigative professionals continue to take calls, conduct investigations, and enforce the law against those who violate it. Should you wish to speak with an investigator regarding potential wrongdoing under the [Ethics Law](#), please call our office and ask to speak with the investigator on duty.

### Financial Disclosure

The Commission's financial disclosure program assists public servants in identifying potential conflicts of interest and provides public awareness of the financial interests of the officials and employees who serve them. Our [online filing system](#) continues to operate smoothly and statements can be filed as usual online. If you have any questions or need filing assistance, please to call our office and ask to speak to one of our financial disclosure professionals.

## Education/Training

For those working from home, now is a perfect time to take advantage of the Ethics Commission's convenient online training options. In fact, our March 18 webinar yesterday was attended by nearly 300 electronic learners! Visit [this page](#) for information regarding upcoming webinars – as an added bonus, our webinars are free and even approved for one hour of general Continuing Legal Education credit for attorneys.

Also consider taking our [e-course](#). This course fulfills the Governor's requirement for annual training regarding the Ethics Law for both FDS filers and non-filers and is also approved for one hour of general Continuing Legal Education credit.

Please stay safe and know that the Ethics Commission is still here to serve you!