



For Immediate Release: Dann for Ohio

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Attorney General-Elect Dann names Kearney, Marcus, Winters transition chairs, adopts stringent code of ethics to govern process

Attorney General-Elect Marc Dann today appointed State Senator Eric Kearney of Cincinnati, Kent Markus, Associate Professor of Law at Capital University Law School, and Tom Winters a partner in the Columbus office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease as chairs of his transition team. Detailed biographies of the chairs are attached to this press release. Additional members of the transition team will be named in the next two weeks.

“I am proud that three of Ohio’s most respected, experienced, thoughtful, and energetic citizens have agreed to devote their time, knowledge, and insight to helping me accomplish the daunting task of assuming this office,” Senator Dann said today. “With their support, and with the cooperation we are already receiving from Attorney General Petro and his staff, I am confident that the transition will proceed as quickly and efficiently as possible and that I and my staff will be ready to seize the opportunity we have to serve the people of Ohio when we take office on January 8.”

Senator Kearney, Professor Markus, and Attorney Winters will lead a team of volunteers that will examine the operations of the AG’s office, establish hiring standards, make operational recommendations, accept resumes, vet candidates for employment, and assist the Attorney General-elect in organizing the office and hiring staff.

Along with naming his transition chairs, Attorney General-elect Dann released the “Code of Ethical Conduct” statement he is requiring all members of the transition team to sign and by which they must abide in order to participate in the process. “During the campaign, I promised the people of the state of Ohio that I would hold myself and all those associated with me or the office of attorney general to the highest possible ethical standards,” he said. “This stringent code of ethics represents the first step in keeping that promise and will set the tone for my administration and, hopefully, for all of state government. A copy of the Code is attached to this release.

The Attorney General-elect also announced that Greg Beswick, who managed his successful campaign for the office, will serve as his transition director. Leo Jennings III, who was Campaign and Communications Director for Dann for Ohio, will serve as senior advisor to the Attorney General-elect and as interim communications director for the transition team. Other staff members include deputy directors Beverly Staten, Chris Geidner, and Craig Mehall.

Those interested in serving on the transition team or in submitting a resume for employment in the Attorney General’s office may do so via e-mail to Employment@ag.state.oh.us There is

also a link to the transition team on the Attorney General's website that may be reached by clicking on the "Careers" tab on the front page.

For more information regarding this press release please contact Leo Jennings at 330-402-7595.

Transition Team Biographical Information

Kent Markus

Associate Professor of Law

Director, The National Center for Adoption Law & Policy at Capital University Law School

B.S., Northwestern University, 1981

J.D., cum laude, Harvard Law School, 1984

Professor Markus is an Associate Professor of Law at Capital University Law School. He is also Director of Capital's National Center for Adoption Law & Policy, the only institution in the country exclusively dedicated to child welfare and adoption systemic reform.

He teaches in an extensive array of fields including Adoption Law, Criminal Law, Administrative Law, Remedies, Ethics, Legislation, along with a course on Baseball & The Law.

He serves on the Boards of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, Franklin County Children Services and SEARCH (The National Consortium for Justice Information & Statistics). At the request of the Mayor of Columbus, he is currently chairing a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary Neighborhood Safety Working Group aimed at increasing public safety and reducing crime in Central Ohio.

Prior to coming to Capital as a visiting professor in 1998, Professor Markus was the deputy chief of staff at the U.S. Justice Department and the highest-ranking advisor –Counselor – to Attorney General Janet Reno. During his five years at the Justice Department, Professor Markus was responsible for the national implementation of the Brady Law and the 1994 Crime Act; he established and was the first director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) (responsible for putting 100,000 new community policing officers on America's streets); he managed the Department's dealings with Congress; and he was the point person for the Department on crime policy, particularly juvenile crime and gun violence.

Prior to joining the Justice Department, Professor Markus was the chief of staff at the Democratic National Committee and before that, chief of staff for former Ohio Attorney General Lee Fisher. Earlier in his career, Professor Markus worked at law firms in Australia, Alaska and Washington, D.C., before returning home to clerk for U.S. District Judge Alvin I. "Buddy" Krenzler, and to practice law and teach at Cleveland State University Law School. On Capitol Hill, Professor Markus worked for former U.S. House Speakers Carl Albert and Tip O'Neill and was special advisor to former House Rules Committee Chairman, Richard Bolling.

Thomas R. Winters

Partner, Columbus Office, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

J.D. Capital University Law School, Columbus, Ohio 1984

A.B. Ohio Dominican College, Columbus, Ohio 1972

Mr. Winters is a partner in the Columbus office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP. He represents governments, businesses and trade associations on legislative matters at the national, state, local and administrative agency levels.

Mr. Winters served for over 10 years as a top assistant and Chief of Staff to the Speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives, including terms as Clerk of the House (1975-1978;1982), Executive Secretary of the House (1974 and 1983 to 1984), and Majority Counsel (legal counsel for the House of Representatives, 1984 to 1986). As a result of holding these positions and working very closely with current and past members of the Ohio House and Ohio Senate, Mr. Winters has developed personal contacts at every level of Ohio's government, and with members of Congress.

As an attorney with Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, he has handled matters such as environmental, tax, labor, hospital, health care, higher education law and funding, utility deregulation, tort reform, and consumer legislation; administrative rulemaking; lobbying; and environmental permitting; and government contract work.

Mr. Winters is a member of the Ohio Ballot Board (1985 to present), currently serving as its Vice Chairman. Mr. Winters was the Law Director for the Village of Urbancrest, Ohio (1998). He served from 1988 to 1995 as a member of the Board of Trustees of Shawnee State University and two terms as Chairman of the Board (1993-1994).

Recently, he was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Ohio Dominican University where he was also a member of the National Alumni Board. He has also served as a member of the Ohio Historical Society Foundation Board (1993-2000); a former member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Youth in Government Program; and a former member of the BalletMet Advocacy Committee. Mr. Winters is a Director and Treasurer of the Thomas More Society and a Director of the Board of the Ohio Expenditure Council. He has consulted on many legislative, judicial and statewide candidate and issue campaign committees. In 1999 he was appointed to the Executive Order of the Ohio Commodore by the Governor and was elected this year as the organization's Fleet Commander/Vice President. He is active in that organization which exists to promote commerce and international trade between Ohio and the World.

The Honorable Eric H. Kearney
Senator, 9th District of Ohio
A.B. Dartmouth College
J.D. University of Cincinnati College of Law

Senator Eric H. Kearney represents Ohio's 9th Senate District in the Ohio General Assembly. He is a life-long Cincinnati. He is a graduate of St. Xavier High School and earned an A.B. in English from Dartmouth College. He received his J. D. from the University of Cincinnati College of Law. He is married to Jan- Michele Lemon Kearney Esq. who is publisher of The Cincinnati Herald. They have two children Emerson and Asher. In 2004, the Kearney family was honored as the Black Family Reunion's "Family of the Year."

Before joining the Ohio Senate, Senator Kearney founded and built one of the largest African American owned publishing companies Sesh Communications, which publishes *The Cincinnati Herald*, *The Northern Kentucky Herald*, *The Dayton Defender*, *Our Week* and other publications. He also practiced law with Strauss & Troy, LLP. In 1995, Senator Kearney became a partner with the Cincinnati law firm Cohen, Todd, Kite & Stanford, LLC. He serves as Special Master/Trustee for the Fernald II Workers Settlement Fund.

In December 2005, the Senate Democratic Caucus appointed Kearney to replace Mark Mallory who vacated the seat to serve as Mayor of Cincinnati. In his service to Ohio's General Assembly, Senator Kearney has championed the issues of small business development child safety, adoption, and crime prevention. He is a vocal supporter of the campaign to require booster seats in Ohio. Senator Kearney passed a bill in 2006, which would require the state of Ohio to statutorily recognize Black History Month.

Senator Kearney is the Ranking Minority Member of the Judiciary Civil Justice Committee. He is also on the Judiciary; - Criminal Justice Insurance, Commerce, and Labor; State and Local Government and Veterans Affairs also he serves on the Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, of which he is the Co-Chair. Senator Kearney also serves his community outside of the General Assembly. He is a member of the board of trustees for several organizations, including The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation, Independent Living Options, and Cincinnati Ballet. Senator Kearney has received numerous awards including the Who's Who Among African Americans (12th Edition) and the U.S. District Court Southern District of Ohio Attorney Service Award (2000).

**CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS OF ADVISORY GROUPS FOR THE
TRANSITION TEAM OF ATTORNEY GENERAL-ELECT MARC DANN**

PURPOSE

The Attorney General-Elect hereby adopts this Code of Conduct as the appropriate standard of conduct for members of Advisory Groups for his Transition Team. The Code is adopted to ensure public trust and confidence and to inform members of the standard of conduct expected of them.

STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Transition Team of Attorney General-Elect Dann and any Advisory Groups exist to serve the public interest by facilitating the transfer of responsibilities of the current Attorney General and his administration to Attorney General-Elect Dann and his new administration. Accordingly, all members shall conduct themselves in the course of their duties in a manner that fosters the respect, trust and confidence of the public. Among other things, members must avoid any activity or association that is, or appears to be, a violation of the public trust, including conflicts that are substantial and material or that may bring government into disrepute. In any instance in which a member is not certain what the standard of conduct should be the member should consult Counsel to the Transition Team or a designee.

TRANSITION CODE OF ETHICAL CONDUCT

As a condition of being permitted to serve as a member of the transition of the Attorney General-elect, I agree to abide by the following requirements:

1. I will disclose, then recuse or otherwise disqualify myself from involvement in any particular transition matter which to my knowledge may directly conflict or appear to conflict with a financial interest of mine, my spouse, minor child, partner, client or other individual or organization with which I have a business or close personal relationship.
2. I will not solicit or accept any money or things of value in exchange for a promise to support or use influence on behalf of any person who is a candidate for any appointive office or place in the Attorney General's office.
3. I will not use or attempt to use my position in the transition to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the member or others.
4. I will not undertake any employment or service which might reasonably be expected to impair my objectivity and independence of judgment in the exercise of my duties for the transition.
5. I will not accept from any person, directly or indirectly or through my spouse or family member or through any partner or associate, any gift, favor, service or other thing of value under circumstances from which it might be reasonably inferred that the gift, service or other thing of value was offered or given for the purpose of influencing me in the discharge of my duties for the transition.
6. I understand that in my transition-related activities, unless given specific authorization, I am not permitted to make any representations on behalf of Attorney General-elect Dann, his designees, or any official of the transition.

7. I understand that authorization is required from the transition Chairmen or Director or their designee before seeking, on behalf of the transition, access to any non-public information.
8. I will hold in confidence any non-public information provided to me in the course of my duties with the transition and ensure that such information is used exclusively for purposes of the transition.
9. I will not use or permit to be used any non-public information, in any manner, for any private gain for myself or any other party, at any time during or after the transition.
10. I will take all necessary precautions to avoid any conflicts that may exist or arise as a result of my representation, or the representation of my current firm or employer, of any party or parties to any case or of the target or subject of any investigation obtained during my work on the transition. If such conflicts exist or arise, I will disclose the conflict and recuse or otherwise disqualify myself immediately.
11. I will follow the Canons of Professional Responsibility, and any other applicable ethical rules, laws or regulations, with respect to any non-public information I obtain as a member of the transition.
12. For six (6) months after the transition, I will not represent, with or without compensation, any person before an agency in any particular matter involving a specific party or parties as to which I obtained government information not then available to the public and not made public prior to the request for advice or representation.
13. I will conserve and protect any state property entrusted to me, and shall not use state property, including equipment and supplies, other than for purposes directly related to transition activities.
14. I will not knowingly act in any way that might be reasonably expected to create an impression of impropriety or suspicion among the public that I may be engaged in conduct inconsistent with this Code.
15. I understand that my commitment to abide by these requirements may be made public and that this document will be made available to any department or agency to which I may be assigned. I will seek guidance from the Counsel to the Attorney General-elect, or designated agency ethics officials, as appropriate, if necessary to ensure compliance with these standards of conduct. I furthermore acknowledge that failure to comply with the above provisions may result in my dismissal from the transition and that other sanctions may be imposed as appropriate.