



For Immediate Release: May 5, 2010  
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### **Ethics Commission welcomes new member**

A lawyer with a divinity degree is the newest member of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust. University of Miami Law Professor **Charlton Copeland** will be sworn into the post at the next Ethics Commission meeting, 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 19, 2010, at 19 W. Flagler St. Suite 820.

Copeland, who joined the UM faculty as an associate professor in 2007, earned a Bachelor's Degree from Amherst College, a Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School and a Juris Doctorate from Yale Law School. He has clerked for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit as well as in the Constitutional Court of South Africa. Professor Copeland worked as an associate with an international law firm based in Washington, D.C., before serving as a visiting assistant professor at Northwestern University.

"I am terribly excited to be invited to serve on the Commission so that I may become more involved in Miami-Dade County," Copeland said. "I think it will be a valuable experience for me and I hope I can make a valuable contribution," said the 35-year-old Brickell resident.

Copeland fills the position on the five-member board that is rotated between the UM and St. Thomas University Schools of Law. He replaces Magda Abdo-Gomez, the appointee from St. Thomas who served on the Ethics Commission with distinction for more than three years. She will be honored at the May meeting.

Another position on the Ethics Commission – previously filled by Erica Wright, who resigned to run for political office -- is expected to be filled shortly by the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education and outreach, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

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