



For Immediate Release: December 18, 2012
Contact: Joseph Centorino, Executive Director
(305) 350-0613 or centori@miamidade.gov

UM Professor named Ethics Commission Chair

The Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust (COE) today elected Charlton Copeland as its chair for the next two years. The University of Miami Law School professor was first appointed to the Ethics Commission two and a half years ago and most recently served as Vice-Chair. Professor Copeland 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 succeeds Dawn Addy, who has led the five-person volunteer board for two years. Addy, the director of the Center for Labor Research & Studies at Florida International University, was presented with an engraved clock in appreciation of her service.

In other action today, the Ethics Commission opined that Miami-Dade County Commissioner Esteban Bovo may serve as a consultant to Dade Medical College -- a private, for profit institution that trains students as medical technicians -- as long as he limits his involvement. According to the response to his Request for Opinion (**RQO 12-13**), Commissioner Bovo may advise the College's lobbyists on state and federal matters, but should not personally lobby any level of government and must avoid any interaction related to county government or the Public Health Trust. Among the restrictions cited in the Opinion, Bovo is warned not to appear before any public board on behalf of the college in Miami-Dade County or vote on any matter related to it that comes before the County Commission.

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, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

###