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African leaders study good governance at the Ethics Commission

Twelve high-ranking representatives of eleven African nations visited The Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust on Tuesday, February 14, 2012, as part of a State Department program promoting transparency and good government. Executive Director Joe Centorino discussed (with the aid of interpreters with the French-speaking group) the history of anti-corruption efforts in South Florida, the agency's origin and mission and the state's unique and strict Government in the Sunshine Law.

It was the first visit to the United States for these leaders, who came to Miami after spending a week in Washington, D.C. and several days in Albuquerque and New Orleans. Their program was arranged by The International Education Institute, and the Miami Council for International Visitors coordinated their South Florida itinerary.

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.

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Photo attachments:

1) Joe Centorino, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust, discusses the fight against corruption with 12 African participants in the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program, coordinated by the Miami Council for International Visitors.

2) Joe Centorino, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics & Public Trust, with 12 African participants in the U.S. State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program, coordinated by the Miami Council for International Visitors.