

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Diane Lease Named Chief Legal Counsel of the Ohio Department of Development

**Columbus** – Christiane Schmenk, Director of the Ohio Department of Development, is pleased to announce that Diane Lease is now serving as the Chief Legal Counsel of the Ohio Department of Development. In her role, Diane is responsible for overseeing the Development's legal staff and operations, in addition to serving as a fiduciary to the Director in advising and implementing legal policy.



Diane has more than 20 years of experience in business and governmental law, and replaces Christiane Schmenk who was recently appointed as the Director of the Ohio Department of Development.

"With Diane's vast knowledge and experience, I cannot imagine a better fit for our legal office," said Schmenk. "Diane is an asset to the Department and provides valuable advice on a variety of Department subjects."

Before joining the Ohio Department of Development, Diane was an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office, where she advised county commissioners and county agencies on contract, real estate, and purchasing matters. In addition, as General Counsel for the Ohio Police and Fire Pension Fund for more than a decade, she managed legal matters involving complex investment transactions, health care contracts, and overall compliance with governing laws.

Diane began her legal career at Schottenstein Zox & Dunn, where she became a partner, and later joined Chester Willcox & Saxbe.

Diane is President of the Columbus Rotary Club. She is a former board member and Vice President of the National Association of Public Pension Attorneys, as well as a recipient of the Small Business Advocate of the Year Award.

She holds a law degree from the University of Toledo College of Law, where she graduated Cum Laude and a Bachelor of Science degree from Ball State University. Diane resides in Hilliard with her daughters, Marissa and Elizabeth.

*Working with partners across business, state and local governments, academia, and the nonprofit sector, the **Ohio Department of Development** works to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. Engaged every day in marketing, innovating, investing, and collaborating, the **Ohio Department of Development** works at the speed of business to accelerate and support the teamwork that is necessary for success by providing financial, informational, and technical assistance to those making an investment in Ohio's future.*

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