

For Immediate Release

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NEW TRUSTEE ELECTED TO WEXNER CENTER FOUNDATION BOARD

The Wexner Center Foundation announced at its annual meeting today the election of a new trustee: **Michael S. Helfer**, executive vice president for corporate strategy for Nationwide.

An attorney and noted expert on financial services, Helfer has been with Nationwide—a more than \$117 billion, Fortune 500 insurance and financial services organization based in Columbus—since July 2000. He was recently appointed by Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman to the Downtown Initiatives Task Force, a diverse group of civic leaders advising on the development of downtown Columbus.

“With his significant business and legal background and his keen interest in the arts, Helfer adds an informed new voice to the Wexner Center’s governing board,” says Wexner Center Foundation board chair Leslie H. Wexner. “He is respected in the business world for his expertise in strategic planning, and we look forward to his participation at the Center.”

Before moving to Columbus, Helfer was a partner and head of the financial institutions group at Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, a 350-lawyer international law firm headquartered in Washington, D.C. He served as the firm’s chairman and chief executive officer from 1995 to 1998.

He is a member of the American Law Institute and of the Board of Directors of Lawyers for Children America. He is also one of the nation’s leading authorities on the new federal Financial Services Modernization Act.

Helfer is a graduate of Claremont Men’s College and the Harvard Law School, where he was treasurer and development editor of the *Harvard Law Review*. Helfer and his family live in Columbus.

news release

THE WEXNER CENTER FOUNDATION

The Wexner Center Foundation is a private, nonprofit partner of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees established for the overall purpose of advancing the interests of the Wexner Center for the Arts. Its major role is to provide long-term financial assistance in support of Wexner Center programming. The following officers continue in their positions on the Foundation board: Chairman Leslie H. Wexner; Vice Chairman William E. Kirwan; President C. Robert Kidder; Treasurer Bruce A. Soll; and Secretary Richard H. Oman.

The Wexner Center for the Arts is The Ohio State University's multidisciplinary, international laboratory for the exploration and advancement of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, screenings, performances, artist residencies, and educational programs, the Wexner Center acts as a forum where established and emerging artists can test ideas and where diverse audiences can participate in cultural experiences that enhance understanding of the art of our time. In its programs, the Wexner Center balances a commitment to experimentation with a commitment to traditions of innovation and affirms the university's mission of education, research, and community service.

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