



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 26, 2007

JOHN MERRIGAN JOINS WLF BOARD

The Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) and the Chairman of the Foundation's Legal Policy Advisory Board, former U.S. Attorney General **Dick Thornburgh**, are pleased to announce that **John A. Merrigan**, a partner with the law firm DLA Piper US LLP, has joined WLF's Board.

Mr. Merrigan serves as co-chair of the firm's Federal Affairs Practice Group. He began law practice in 1973 with the law firm Verner Liipfert, which merged with DLA Piper in 2002. With Berl Bernhard and Harry McPherson, Mr. Merrigan founded Verner Liipfert's federal affairs practice. From 1996 until 2000, he served as Chairman of the Democratic Business Council, the leading forum for business interests within the Democratic National Party. From 2002 through 2004 he served as Middle Atlantic Finance Chairman in the Kerry for President Campaign. He serves on the Board of Directors of the New Democratic Network and on the board of Children Uniting Nations, a foundation which fosters mentoring among inner city children.

"John Merrigan brings over three decades of federal law and government advocacy experience to Washington Legal Foundation's Legal Policy Advisory Board. We are honored by his acceptance, and look forward to working closely with him on issues that affect America's free enterprise system," said Daniel J. Popeo, WLF's Chairman and General Counsel. Popeo added, "John excels at bringing people together on specific issues and building unusual alliances for educational and advocacy efforts. WLF has much to learn from him."

Mr. Merrigan joins a number of other highly respected attorneys and scholars who have recently joined WLF's Board, including **Viet D. Dinh** of the Georgetown University Law Center; **Mark A. Behrens** of the law firm Shook, Hardy & Bacon; **Henry Butler** of Chapman University; and **the Honorable Hal Stratton**, a partner with the law firm Dykema Gossett PLLC and former Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission

WLF's Legal Policy Advisory Board includes over fifty distinguished professionals from government, legal, academic, and public policy communities. For further information, contact WLF Legal Studies Division Chief Counsel Glenn Lammi, (202) 588-0302.