



For Immediate Release

October 20, 2008

WLF CO-SPONSORS BRIEFING ON OVERCRIMINALIZATION AND FINANCIAL CRISIS

The Washington Legal Foundation (WLF), along with the Heritage Foundation and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), will host a briefing, "*Avoiding a Rush to Judgment: Overcriminalization and the Subprime Meltdown*," on Monday, October 27, 2008, from noon to 1 pm, at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The briefing, to be moderated by former Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, Chairman of WLF's Legal Policy Advisory Board and Counsel to K&L Gates LLP, will feature two prominent experts in the field, William R. McLucas of WilmerHale LLP and former Director of Enforcement for the Securities and Exchange Commission, along with Barry J. Pollack of Kelley Drye & Warren LLP and Director of NACDL.

"WLF is proud to co-sponsor this important and timely event with the Heritage Foundation and NACDL," said Daniel Popeo, WLF's Chairman and General Counsel. "While it is generally agreed that the predominate reasons for the subprime crisis were economic in nature, overreacting with new criminal laws and using criminal prosecution may be unnecessary and even counter-productive to honest commerce and our financial recovery," Popeo said.

This event is part of WLF's CRIMINALIZATION OF FREE ENTERPRISE-BUSINESS CIVIL LIBERTIES PROGRAM designed to counter the growing and dangerous trend by federal and state authorities to criminalize honest business activities and violate business civil liberties when more appropriate civil or administrative remedies are available. To register for this event, access the "Upcoming Heritage Events" section on the Heritage Foundation's website at www.heritage.org.

Besides participating in major litigation in this area, WLF's Legal Studies Division also produces policy papers, media briefings, and webinars on key topics in this area, including the erosion of the attorney-client privilege, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, and DOJ criminal prosecution policies. WLF has also published a 125-page SPECIAL REPORT: FEDERAL EROSION OF BUSINESS CIVIL LIBERTIES, with an introduction by Dick Thornburgh, which is available on WLF's website at www.wlf.org, and a companion Timeline Chart.

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