

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2003

WASHINGTON LEGAL FOUNDATION DEBUTS NEW PUBLICATION FORMAT

The Washington Legal Foundation (WLF) today released its first CONVERSATIONS WITH, the newest publication format of WLF's Legal Studies Division. Each CONVERSATIONS WITH provides a spontaneous and informal question-and-answer forum in which top legal experts offer frank commentary on current legal policy issues.

The first CONVERSATIONS WITH focuses on one of the most pressing and controversial issues facing America's civil justice system — asbestos liability. Former U.S. Attorney General and WLF Legal Policy Advisory Board Chairman **Dick Thornburgh** moderated the dialogue. Participating were **Victor Schwartz**, one of America's leading scholars on tort law and civil justice reform and a partner with Shook, Hardy & Bacon; **Robert Vagley**, President of the American Insurance Association; and **William Gallagher**, Senior Vice President, Secretary, and General Counsel of Crown Cork & Seal. In this CONVERSATIONS WITH, the participants discuss the massive impact that asbestos liability is having on our economy and the legal system, and how Congress and the courts should deal with the situation.

“Through our media briefings and our existing publication program, we found that policymakers and journalists are keenly interested in the unfiltered words of the experts,” said WLF's Legal Studies Division Chief Counsel Glenn Lammi. Lammi said that the Conversations With series will generally feature experts from business, academia, and the legal profession. In addition, some may be devoted to focused one-on-one discussions with influential federal or state regulators.

“I strongly encourage anyone who reads this inaugural edition to contact us with ideas for issues and participants for future CONVERSATIONS WITH publications,” said WLF Chairman and General Counsel Daniel J. Popeo.

In addition to the CONVERSATIONS WITH, WLF's Legal Studies Division releases papers in six other formats, ranging from the one-page COUNSEL'S ADVISORY to the book-length MONOGRAPH. These publications target policymakers, print and broadcast journalists, corporate counsel, academics, and advocates. The papers are authored by many of the America's most accomplished legal professionals, including attorneys, corporate general counsel, judges, legislators, executive branch officials, and academics, all of whom contribute on a *pro bono* basis. WLF's catalog of publications includes nearly 1,500 papers

written by over 1,200 different experts.

Washington Legal Foundation is a national, non-profit public interest law and policy center. By utilizing a unique approach to forwarding its mission – publishing timely legal studies, engaging in innovative litigation, and communicating directly to the public – WLF has become the nation’s most effective advocate of free enterprise.

Copies of the first installment of WLF’s CONVERSATIONS WITH series, Number 1 (Spring 2003), can be obtained by forwarding a request to: Publications Department, Washington Legal Foundation, 2009 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, or calling (202) 588-0302.