FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS 45 & 49 to offer gavel-to-gavel coverage of Alito confirmation hearings

KENT, Ohio – Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006 — Starting Monday, Jan. 9 at noon on its digital channels 45-4 and 49-4, PBS 45 & 49 will air The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer’s live coverage of hearings on the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr. to be an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Viewers who have a digital tuner can access the digital programming.

Jim Lehrer, anchor and executive editor of The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer, will anchor the special coverage, along with NewsHour senior correspondents Gwen Ifill and Ray Suarez. Commentary and analysis will be provided by Mark Shields, syndicated columnist; Ramesh Ponnuru, senior editor of the National Review; and Marcia Coyle, National Law Journal Washington bureau chief. Jan Crawford Greenburg, Supreme Court reporter for The Chicago Tribune, will provide live reports from the hearings.

“We are happy to provide this service to our viewers who have access to our digital broadcast,” said Don Freeman, PBS 45 & 49 director of programming and operations. “This is an excellent example of how we can offer specialized public affairs programming using the new technology.”

About The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer

The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer is seen five nights a week on more than 300 PBS stations across the country. On PBS 45 & 49, it airs Monday through Friday at 7 p.m. The program is produced by MacNeil/Lehrer Productions and WETA, Washington, D.C., in association with Thirteen/WNET in New York. Funding for The NewsHour is provided by the Archer Daniels Midland Co.; CIT; SBC Communications, Inc.; The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation; the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and public television viewers.

About PBS 45 & 49

PBS 45 & 49 is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation. A trusted community resource, PBS 45 & 49 uses the power of non-commercial television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

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