



# press release

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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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45 & 49**

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