

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Daniel J. Kelly, Boston Lawyers Chapter, Federalist Society (617) 449-6526

Joyce Linehan, Commonwealth Shakespeare Company (617) 282-2510,
joyce@ashmontmedia.com

Former Whitewater Independent Counsel Ken Starr and Former American Bar Association President Michael S. Greco to Take on Shakespeare's *King Lear* and the Authority of Kings, Presidents, and Judges

BOSTON, May 1 -- Former Whitewater Independent Counsel, Solicitor General, and Federal Appeals Court Judge, now Dean of Pepperdine Law School, Kenneth W. Starr will host a discussion and debate on issues of national sovereignty and the independence and authority of the branches of government, framed by a staged reading of Shakespeare's *King Lear* at The Cutler Majestic Theatre on May 21, 2008 at 5 pm. K&L Gates Partner and Former American Bar Association President Michael S. Greco will take on the role of Lear.

The FREE event is the eighth in the series "Shakespeare and the Law," produced by the Boston Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society, in conjunction with Commonwealth Shakespeare Company. The event is directed by CSC's Artistic Director Steven Maler and produced by McCarter & English partner Daniel J. Kelly. The Massachusetts Bar Association serves as a co-sponsor of the event.

As in the past, the first hour features prominent judges, public officials and members of the bar performing an abridged version of a Shakespeare work. This is followed by a discussion of the legal and political issues addressed in the play and their application to today's headlines. In addition to Mr. Greco, the event features former Governor and Ambassador to Canada Paul Cellucci, federal judges Douglas Woodlock, Rya Zobel, Patti Saris, Dennis Saylor and Nathaniel Gorton, Supreme Judicial Court Justices Robert Cordy and Judith Cowin, Ropes & Gray Managing Partner John Montgomery, Wilmer Hale Partner and President-elect of the American College of Trial Lawyers Joan Lukey, criminal defense and civil liberties attorney and writer Harvey Silverglate, and criminal defense attorney J.W. Carney, Jr.

Dean Starr will preside over the discussion following the play.

While Shakespeare's *King Lear* is often viewed by modern audiences as an intensely personal drama about the conflicts and struggles between an aging father and his daughters, it is also a lesson of statecraft -- a tragic example of how not to transfer power. In its opening scene, Lear, an octogenarian at the height of his power, elects to surrender his authority and divide his kingdom among his three daughters. This sets off a series of cataclysmic events leading to the destruction of Lear and his family and to the foreign invasion of his kingdom, and serves as a fitting backdrop for the discussion to follow the play. The participants will examine the nature of and basis for authority and the tenuous hold those in authority have over the reigns of power. The participants will discuss the roots of authority held by the three branches of the American government and the perils to each of those branches when authority of one is surrendered in

favor of or usurped by another. The participants will also look at the international dimensions of this issue as the United States wrestles with its own sovereignty and that of the United Nations, foreign countries and international tribunals. Audience members are encouraged to ask questions and join the debate.

The event is free. Members of the public may gain admittance by RSVP'ing prior to the event to the Federalist Society c/o Dottie Moore at 617 449 6617 or dmoore@mccarter.com.

The Federalist Society is an academic oriented organization comprised of law students, attorneys, professors and judges committed to creating awareness and discussion of timely and timeless issues affecting the law and society. The Society is dedicated to ensuring that traditional legal principles -- limited constitutional government, the separation of powers, individual freedom and responsibility, and the rule of law -- remain part of the legal debate.

Commonwealth Shakespeare Company, best known for its annual free performances on Boston Common, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing the works of William Shakespeare in vital and contemporary productions to the people of Boston. CSC was founded in 1996 by Steven Maler, who has directed all of its productions. In summer 2008, he will direct a production of *As You Like It*, sponsored by Citi, July 18-August 3 on Boston Common and August 8-10 in Springfield. Free Shakespeare is a Public Program of Citi Performing Arts Center.

Incorporated in 1911, the Massachusetts Bar Association is a non-profit organization that serves the legal profession and the public by promoting the administration of justice, legal education, professional excellence and respect for the law. The MBA represents a diverse group of attorneys, judges and legal professionals across the commonwealth.

McCarter & English, LLP, established more than 160 years ago, represents Fortune 500 and mid-cap companies in their national, regional and local litigation and on important transactions. Its 400 attorneys are based in offices in Boston; Hartford; New York; Newark; Philadelphia; Stamford and Wilmington.