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**INDIANA PUBLIC BROADCASTING STATIONS IMPLEMENT FIRST-EVER
STATEWIDE “STATE OF THE JUDICIARY” BROADCAST**

**PROJECT PART OF LARGER CPB GRANT-FUNDED INITIATIVE TO
FOSTER STATEWIDE COLLABORATIVE SERVICES**

Indianapolis, IN – In a first-of-its kind collaboration, public television and radio stations are broadcasting Indiana’s annual State of the Judiciary address on a statewide basis.

The address, presented to a joint session of the Indiana General Assembly, features Chief Justice of Indiana Randall T. Shepard, who on Jan. 20 outlined advancements made by Indiana’s judicial system over the past 12 months. Although the State of the Judiciary is an annual event mandated by the state constitution, this is the first time it has been broadcast statewide.

The demonstration broadcast is an outgrowth of a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, awarded to four member television stations of Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations (IPBS). IPBS represents the eight public television and eight public radio stations serving the Hoosier state.

“Once again, even in challenging economic times, public broadcasting is committed to leading the way in positive public service,” says Roger Rhodes, executive director of IPBS. “This collaborative effort represents IPBS members’ dedication to serving our state by being frontrunners in delivering the timely, educational and newsworthy information our audiences know to expect.”

The State of the Judiciary broadcast represents one type of programming being considered for the Indiana Channel, a ground-breaking IPBS project under development by member television stations. When fully developed, the Indiana Channel will feature a diverse, commercial-free programming lineup, with content covering state history, heritage, sports, public affairs, tourism, economic development, education and government.

The Indiana Channel will reach viewers throughout the state and most surrounding areas.

“Our goal for the channel is to help create a ‘community of Indiana,’” says Rhodes. “Broadcasts such as the State of the Judiciary will bring key state government developments closer to the people, whether they live in the capital city or in the farthest corners of the state.”

Participating IPBS member stations in the State of the Judiciary television broadcast are: WTIU-TV, Bloomington; WNIN-TV, Evansville; WFWA-TV, Fort Wayne; WFYI-TV, Indianapolis; WYIN-TV, Merrillville; WIPB-TV, Muncie; WNIT-TV, South Bend/Elkhart; and WVUT-TV, Vincennes.

Additionally, IPBS member radio stations that participated in the live State of the Judiciary broadcast included: WNIN-FM, Evansville; WFYI-FM, Indianapolis; WBST-FM, Muncie; and WVUB-FM, Vincennes.

Indiana Public Broadcasting Stations, Inc. (IPBS) is a 501 (c) (3), not-for-profit organization representing the eight PBS television stations and eight NPR radio stations which serve and operate in the state of Indiana. IPBS is the convening resource that connects Indiana public broadcasting and institutional partners to accomplish exciting, collaborative community-building services for Hoosiers everywhere.

For more information, visit www.ipbs.org.