



NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:
Kathy Funke, Director
News & Information Services
812/465-7005
FAX 812/465-1956

**For immediate release
Thursday, March 18, 1999**

**Lawyer, environmentalist, and subject of bestseller and
major motion picture to lecture at USI in April
(photo available upon request)**

Jan Schlichtmann, lawyer and environmentalist whose legal career is chronicled in the national bestseller, *A Civil Action*, will speak at the University of Southern Indiana at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20, in Mitchell Auditorium. The book was made into a major motion picture by the same name starring John Travolta as Schlichtmann.

Schlichtmann's appearance is in conjunction with USI's Earth Day observance. His comments will reference environmental ethics and awareness. The lecture is open to the public.

Schlichtman received national prominence in 1986 for representing eight Woburn, Massachusetts, families against W. R. Grace and Beatrice Foods for the contamination of the Woburn city water supply. In addition to the bestseller and movie about the events in Woburn, his groundbreaking efforts in the case have been the subject of national radio and television shows and reports, newspaper stories and features, and articles in legal and scientific journals.

Following his undergraduate work at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa in 1973, Schlichtmann earned his law degree from Cornell in 1977. While at law school, he clerked for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and taught a college level course in communications law at Cornell University. After graduating from law school, Schlichtmann joined the staff of the U.S. House Special Select Committee on Assassinations as special counsel.

He began private practice in Massachusetts gaining notoriety as a trial lawyer in the field of complex litigation. As a plaintiff's attorney, Schlichtmann has obtained some of Massachusetts' largest personal injury settlements and verdicts in cases involving defective products, hotel fires, and medical negligence.

In 1990, Schlichtmann, as a member of a special legislatively mandated committee, helped author a complete revision of the Massachusetts Hazardous Waste Cleanup Statute which was enacted into law July of 1992. He has lectured at law schools; spoken before various professional and civic groups; and has participated in public forums on issues of law, public policy, and the environment. Schlichtmann has consulted with and testified before governmental agencies and legislative committees on issues of toxic waste liability and the civil justice system.