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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Former DoD IG Joseph Schmitz Joins Oversight Project as a Distinguished Constitutional Fellow**

**Bethesda, MD** – JOSEPH E. SCHMITZ, PLLC announced today that Hon. Joseph E. Schmitz, who in addition to a private sector law career served as the fifth Senate-confirmed Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) from 2002 to 2005, will serve as a Distinguished Constitutional Fellow for the Oversight Project while continuing his private sector career.

As DoD Inspector General, Schmitz was agency head of the most expensive Inspector General organization in the world, with statutory policy oversight responsibility for roughly 60,000 auditors, investigators, inspectors, law enforcement officers, and oversight professionals throughout the Department of Defense. For his service as DoD Inspector General, he was awarded the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, the highest honorary award presented by the Secretary of Defense to non-career federal employees.

From 2022 to 2024, Mr. Schmitz served as one of 14 Commissioners on the independent Congressionally-chartered Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics & Paralympics. He is in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame (Virginia Chapter) as an “Outstanding American.”

Mr. Schmitz has published numerous articles and has testified as a constitutional expert before U.S. Senate committees, and before various state legislature committees. In 2013, he authored “THE INSPECTOR GENERAL HANDBOOK: FRAUD, WASTE, ABUSE, AND OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL ‘ENEMIES, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC’,” with endorsements by, among others, former U.S. Senator and Attorney General John Ashcroft, former Attorney General Michael B. Mukasey, former FBI Director Louie Freeh, and former U.S. Senator and U.S. Circuit Judge for the D.C. Circuit, the late Honorable James L. Buckley (for whom Joe clerked).

Prior to his service as DoD Inspector General, Mr. Schmitz was a Partner in the international law firm of Patton Boggs LLP. He represented General Aviation Manufacturers Association, FedEx, Asiana Airlines, and Virgin Atlantic Airways, among others. His Patton Boggs colleagues included Donald McGahn, now the former White House Counsel during President Trump’s First Administration, and Makan Delrahim, now the former Assistant Attorney General for Antitrust.

James Bang, with whom Schmitz represented the interests of Asiana Airlines in the United

States, said this about Joseph Schmitz:

“Joe is one of the finest lawyers with honor and integrity I have had the pleasure of working with. I am prepared to work alongside him in any challenge. He is a dedicated Christian warrior, committed to ensuring the safety and prosperity of our country. I look forward to collaborating with Joe again, fostering cooperation between Washington and multinational Korean companies doing business in the United States.”

Dr. Walid Phares, who served along with Joseph Schmitz as a foreign policy advisor to Donald Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign, said this about Schmitz:

“Joe is one of the finest lawyers I have ever met. His integrity and professionalism are beyond reproach. More importantly, he is a good friend and a genuinely righteous man, always willing to contribute his time and talents to a worthy cause. I congratulate him and The Oversight Project on Joe’s affiliation with the latter, and I look forward to continuing to work with Joe in the many years to come.”

“Accountability isn’t about partisanship—it’s a duty rooted in the Constitution. Without transparency, liberty cannot be protected,” said **Oversight Project Distinguished Constitutional Fellow Joseph Schmitz**. He added, “I’m honored to join the Oversight Project in this critical mission to demand answers and expose the truth from any taxpayer-funded government resources. The era of unchecked government ends where oversight begins.”

**Oversight Project President Mike Howell** said “We’re thrilled to welcome Joe Schmitz to the team. Joe brings not only an unmatched record of integrity and service, but a fearless commitment to exposing government abuse. As we charge forward into what President Trump has called the Golden Age, Joe’s leadership will be a force multiplier in our mission to uncover the truth and hold the powerful to account. We are a government OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE and that is why our motto proclaims, It’s your government.”

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*JOSEPH E. SCHMITZ, PLLC ("JESPLLC"), is a unique, veteran-owned law and consulting firm founded in 2008 by the Honorable Joseph E. Schmitz, former Inspector General of the Department of Defense. Its core values are Integrity, Transparent Accountability, Disciplined Teamwork, and Independence. Its mission is to provide value-added Legal and Private Sector Inspector General professional services, also known as Independent Monitoring, as well as “Privileged & Confidential” Escrow Management services, that reflect our core values.*

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