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Indianapolis-Irvington Woman Attends Washington, D.C. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Conference and Celebrates Over 1000 Graduates

Indianapolis-Irvington—Jennifer Ruby, attorney-owner of Ruby Law just returned from Washington, D.C. where she met with top national governmental and political leaders as part of the 2005-06 Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series. The four-day conference was the concluding session of the year-long political leadership development program which Ruby was selected for last fall.

While in Washington, members of this year's Lugar Series Class joined participants and alumni from 18 other states at a dinner to celebrate graduating over 1000 women from the 19 Excellence in Public Service programs. The Indiana group had meetings with U.S. Senator Richard Lugar and his senior staff officials as well as attended a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. They received a political briefing by senior Bush administration officials, a briefing at the Pentagon and met with Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of African Affairs. Brigadier General, USAF (ret.) Wilma L. Vaught, who now serves as the Memorial Foundation President, spoke to the group and provided a tour of the Women's War Memorial in Arlington Cemetery. The group traveled to the National Transportation Safety Board Academy and met with NTSB Member Ellen Engleman Connors, a Lugar Series alumni.

"This program is an outstanding way to foster greater participation by women in public service," Lugar said. "It is critical for the future of Indiana and the country that we encourage outstanding Hoosier leaders to enter public life. I am certain the members of this class will continue in the tradition of the previous fifteen classes by increasing their public involvement."

Each year up to 20 women are selected through an application process for the Lugar Series, which is designed to encourage and prepare the selected participants for public service. Applicants must be keenly interested in using their leadership skills in the public sector and must demonstrate a commitment to the full participation of women in politics and government. Applications for the 2006-07 class are due by August 1, 2006, and may be obtained on the Lugar Series website at www.lugarseries.org ; by writing to Sandi Huddleston, 47 S. Meridian Street, #200, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or by calling (317) 964-5005.