



“Law, Liberty, and Security” John Ashcroft at Columbia University ISI’s Law Enforcement Project At Work

New York, New York – November 30, 2005 The Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI) recently co-sponsored a lecture on “Law, Liberty, and Security,” by former U.S. Attorney General, John Ashcroft, at Columbia University in New York City. Ashcroft spoke to a standing room only audience of over 1,000 Columbia students and guests on topics ranging from terrorism, the Patriot Act, torture, drug legalization, gay rights, and other issues concerning justice in a free society. The lecture was organized and hosted by an ISI group at Columbia University, *The Columbia College Conservative Club*.



Even before Ashcroft entered the stage, Boone Auditorium and the whole Columbia campus was visibly enthusiastic with the news that Ashcroft was at Columbia. The crowd waited patiently as Ashcroft was introduced by ISI group member and CN Editor in Chief, Victor Cocchia. Throughout his talk, Ashcroft defended his record as the nation’s top law enforcement official and provided countless examples of how he strengthened America’s security following September 11th.

“I went to the Department of Justice, and I put it in very clear language: ‘Think outside the box. Never outside the Constitution,’” Ashcroft declared. The lecture was broad in scope and flowed seamlessly from one subject to another. Intermittently throughout the speech, an audience member who disagreed with Ashcroft’s point of view would yell a comment to which Ashcroft



would calmly reply with a joke or quick point to back up his earlier statement. To Ashcroft’s credit, the audience often supported him with applause. While talking about the Patriot Act, an audience member let out a loud boo, which Ashcroft quickly responded with, “The best part of the Patriot Act is that it protects the opportunity for those who want to make those funny sounds in the back.” The lecture was also followed by a robust Q&A session, in which the audience asked questions on various topics.

The lecture was preceded by a private dinner with Attorney General Ashcroft, ISI Program Officers, Matthew Chalfant and Francisco Gonzalez, ISI Group President, Chris Kulawik, CN Paper *The Columbia Citadel*, Editor in Chief, Victor Cocchia, and others. During the reception and dinner, Matthew and Francisco had an opportunity to speak directly with Ashcroft about the great work ISI is doing on our nation’s campuses and more specifically explain the ISI Law Enforcement Project. Ashcroft also expressed an interest in participating in more college lectures, to which Matthew and Francisco responded by pledging ISI’s commitment to fostering and deepening its relationship with Ashcroft.