



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:  
PRIVATE DEAL\$ AND PUBLIC CORRUPTION**

**Operation Clean Government Forum  
Televised on Rhode Island PBS on June 19**

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (June 11, 2008) – On Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Rhode Island's Independence Hall, Operation Clean Government (OCG) held its second annual corruption forum, focusing this year on the legacy of corruption at the Rhode Island General Assembly. OCG assembled an extraordinary panel of experienced government watchdogs, critics, and reporters for the 90-minute forum. Edited for television, the one-hour program will air on WSBE Rhode Island PBS on Thursday, June 19 at 10 PM on channel 36, RI cable 8, digital 36.1, DirecTV 36, and Dish 7776. Cox and Comcast subscribers can watch a re-broadcast on Saturday, June 21 at 2:30 AM.

Former Providence news anchor and political commentator Dave Layman moderates the discussion, targeting each panelist with tough, provocative questions focusing on legislative corruption, its history, the massing of power, how bad the problem is and, most importantly, what needs to be done about it. The audience also poses questions directly to the panelists.

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Panelists (in alphabetical order) are:

**Edward Achorn** - *The Providence Journal* deputy editorial editor

**Arthur "Chuck" Barton** - President of Operation Clean Government

**Ross Cheit** - Associate Professor of Political Science at Brown University and Rhode Island Ethics Commissioner

**John DePetro** - NewsTalk 630 WPRO-AM talk show host

**Kenneth Payne** - Former senior policy advisor to the Rhode Island State Senate and former director of the League of Cities and Towns

**Bill Rappleye** - NBC10 News legislative and political reporter

**Arlene Violet** - Veteran radio talk show host, political columnist, TV commentator, and former R.I. Attorney General

*WSBE Rhode Island PBS is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority, a quasi-public agency of the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island PBS is a viewer-supported member of the Public Broadcasting Service. For 40 years, Rhode Island PBS has used the power of commercial-free media to educate, inform, engage, and inspire viewers of all ages. For more information about the programs and education services at Rhode Island PBS, visit [www.RIpbs.org](http://www.RIpbs.org).*

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