Movie Screening: Brought to W.U. Law by the Burson Activities Fund and Co-sponsored by the Student Bar Association

Friday, October 22 at 3:30 p.m. ~ Anheuser Busch Hall
Reception with faculty and students immediately following in Crowder Courtyard

Space limited *** RSVP required for screening and reception to Julie Pole at Julie_pole@wustl.edu or by calling (314) 935-9055. If calling in to respond, please leave name(s) and total number of people in your party.

The Response is a courtroom drama based on the actual transcripts of the Guantanamo Bay military tribunals [officially known as the Combatant Status Review Tribunals]. In the vein of Twelve Angry Men, the film revolves around the trial of a suspected enemy combatant and the three military judges who must decide his fate.

The thirty-minute film features Aasif Mandvi (The Daily Show with Jon Stewart), Kate Mulgrew (Captain Janeway of Star Trek: Voyager), and Peter Riegert (Animal House, Crossing Delancey, The Sopranos). Featuring an Emmy Award-winning cinematographer and sound designer, executive produced by the University of Maryland School of Law and Venable LLP, directed by Adam Rodgers and written & produced by Sig Libowitz.

The Response was shortlisted for the 2010 Academy Awards® (one of only ten films selected worldwide) and named the 2009 ABA Silver Gavel Award winner as best of the year in Drama & Literature. This is the American Bar Association’s highest award. Past award winners include Judgment at Nuremberg, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Twelve Angry Men. The film won the Audience Award at the Politics on Film festival in Washington, D.C., was a Finalist at the USA Film Festival in Dallas and won a Special Jury Prize at the DC Shorts Festival.

The Response has screened at the Pentagon, the U.S. House of Representatives, the Department of Justice, West Point, Harvard, the U.N. Symposium on Peace and International Law, Columbia, the French Embassy, the New York State Bar, UCLA and the U.S. Army JAG School in Charlottesville, VA among others.

The film’s writer/producer, Sig Libowitz, Esq., travelled to Guantanamo upon the invitation of the Pentagon to serve as a legal observer to the Military Commissions.

NPR / PRI calls the film: "a brilliant production"

The Washington Post writes: "a tight, tense recreation."

Dahlia Lithwick, of Slate and Newsweek, declares: “This movie has achieved in 30 minutes what I have attempted to achieve over the last seven years.”

The Response - for the first time ever - holds a mirror up to the tribunals and allows an audience to see and hear for themselves what takes place on Guantanamo. The film places the audience inside the tribunal process where they, along with the military judges, must decide the fate of a detainee. Is he an enemy combatant, guilty of providing material support to Al Qaeda? Or is he an innocent victim of circumstance as he claims?