

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, THE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS, ABC AND THE WASHINGTON POST  
ON THE SETTLEMENT OF THE WEN HO LEE CASE**

June 2, 2006

Wen Ho Lee and the federal government have settled their litigation. That means that our reporters will no longer be in contempt of court for protecting the identities of their confidential news sources. When our reporters were held in contempt, we participated in a mediation process with the parties that now has resulted in the overall settlement of the case. To facilitate the resolution of the case, The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Associated Press, The Washington Post, and ABC agreed to pay a total of \$750,000 to Wen Ho Lee. We did so to protect our confidential sources, to protect our journalists from further sanction and possible imprisonment, and to protect our news organizations from potential exposure. We were reluctant to contribute anything to this settlement, but we sought relief in the courts and found none. Given the rulings of the federal courts in Washington and the absence of a federal shield law, we decided this was the best course to protect our sources and to protect our journalists. The journalism in this case – which was not challenged in Lee’s lawsuit – reported on a matter of great public interest, and the public could not have been informed about the issues without the information that we were able to obtain only from confidential sources. We will continue to vigorously fight subpoenas that seek to identify our confidential sources in the future.