PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Cliff Laube (845) 486-7745

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library author talk and book signing:
Jeff Shesol author of
SUPREME POWER:
FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT vs. THE SUPREME COURT
March 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to announce that former Clinton speechwriter and presidential historian **Jeff Shesol**, author of **SUPREME POWER: FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT vs. THE SUPREME COURT**, will speak at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Following the talk, Mr. Shesol will be available to sign copies of his book. This event is free and open to the public.

In **SUPREME POWER** Jeff Shesol describes FDR's epic conflict with the Court and lays bare the risks of confrontation—for the president, the Court, and the nation. Shesol argues that the showdown between Roosevelt and the Supreme Court was the greatest constitutional crisis of the 20th century. FDR's response helped to save the New Deal and bring the nation into the modern world, but it also dealt him the biggest setback of his political life and split the Democratic Party.

Shesol's gripping narrative history illuminates not only the New Deal era, but our own as well. Like FDR, President Obama arrived in the White House with a popular mandate, a Democratic majority in Congress, and a determined set of ideological opponents—some of whom sit on the Supreme Court. With Republicans threatening to carry their battle against reform legislation into the courts, it is no wonder that observers like Adam Liptak of *The New York Times* are predicting a clash between the Court and the Obama administration. The story Jeff Shesol tells in

SUPREME POWER suggests that this may be inevitable. The book makes clear, as Michael W. McConnell of the Stanford Constitutional Law Center has argued, "Every time in American history when you see a consequential administration you see a heightened tension between it and the court."

A Rhodes Scholar, **JEFF SHESOL** served as deputy chief speechwriter for President Bill Clinton and is the author of *Mutual Contempt: Lyndon Johnson, Robert Kennedy, and the Feud That Defined a Decade* (a *New York Times* Notable Book). He holds degrees in history from Oxford and Brown universities. He is a founding partner of West Wing Writers, a strategic communications firm, and is a frequent contributor to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Politico*, and other publications. Shesol has also appeared on ABC, CNN, MSNBC, NPR, and on such programs as "Charlie Rose" and "Talk of the Nation."

Copies of Mr. Shesol's book will be available for sale after the talk. There is no charge for this program. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email clifford.laube@nara.gov with questions about the event.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of thirteen presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu.

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit www.HistoricHydePark.org.

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