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Panel to Examine 1938 Munich Conference on Sept. 24

ORANGE, Calif., Sept. 11, 2008 – A panel of distinguished experts will discuss the the 1938 Munich Conference at Chapman University on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m. in Rm. 237 Kennedy Hall. The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are required: contact 714-628-2610 or tmplaw15@chapman.edu.

The panel will be moderated by Prof. Michael Bayzler of the Chapman School of Law. Panelists include Prof. Jeffrey Blutinger of the Cal State Long Beach history department, Prof. Randy Willoughby of the University of San Diego department of political science and international relations, and Prof. Henry Jaffa of the Chapman School of Law.

Held in September 1938, the Munich Conference was a meeting of the major European powers, seeking to discuss the future of Czechoslovakia and head off war with Nazi Germany. The conference resulted in the Munich Agreement, signed by Germany, France, Italy and Britain, permitting the Germans to annex the Sudetenland, an area along the Czech border occupied by Czech Germans. (Czechoslovakia, of course, had no vote in the matter.) As history proved, however, this attempt to appease Germany ended up a dismal failure. It did, however, permit British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to go home and deliver his infamous “peace for our time” speech to delighted crowds in London. Only one year after the agreement, Germany had continued its quest for “lebensraum,” invading Poland and plunging Europe into World War II.

The panel will examine the Munich Conference from a historical perspective and the lessons it holds for today. This event is presented by the American Freedom Alliance, in cooperation with the Chapman University School of Law and Chapman’s Center for Global Trade and Development.