

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award-Winning Film PUBLIC DEFENDER Partners with Living Room Conversations to Promote Dialogue Across Political Divides

Washington, DC – *PUBLIC DEFENDER* is partnering with Living Room Conversations, a nonpartisan organization committed to bridging divides and encouraging civil discourse. Together, they will host a series of screenings and discussions designed to spark meaningful conversations, create safe spaces and bring Americans together across political differences.

Emmy Award-winning actor and Executive Producer Richard Schiff (*The West Wing*, *The Good Doctor*) emphasized the urgency of this effort: *"In these critical times, retreat is not an option—we need to reach across our divides. This work is absolutely essential."* Through this unique partnership, *PUBLIC DEFENDER* and Living Room Conversations will provide an opportunity for people across the political spectrum to engage in thoughtful, respectful discussions about the film's challenging themes and the wider issues facing our nation today.

About the Film

Directed by acclaimed filmmaker Andrea Kalin, *PUBLIC DEFENDER* takes audiences inside the world of a public defender who, despite deeply opposing personal and political beliefs, represents individuals involved in the January 6 insurrection. The film explores themes of justice, empathy, misinformation, and the role of the legal system in a divided America.

The Power of Conversation

Living Room Conversations is known for its innovative, facilitated dialogue frameworks that guide participants through constructive and empathetic discussions on contentious issues. The organization's focus on understanding and respect aligns with the film's aim to challenge assumptions and encourage viewers to see beyond the political labels that divide us.

"We're excited to work with Living Room Conversations," said Director Andrea Kalin. *"This film opens the door for people with differing views to engage in conversations rooted in respect and understanding."*

Annie Caplan, Director of Engagement of Living Room Conversations, echoed this sentiment: *"We're thrilled to collaborate on this initiative. We know that real conversations happen when people feel heard and respected. Through these screenings, we hope to cultivate empathy and encourage people to consider perspectives they may not have considered before."*

Join the Conversation

Following each screening, a guided conversation will give participants the chance to connect on a personal level. The goal is not to change minds but to deepen understanding and equip people with tools for talking across differences.

For more information on *PUBLIC DEFENDER* and to RSVP for or host screenings, visit www.publicdefenderfilm.com. To learn more about Living Room Conversations, visit www.livingroomconversations.org.

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