

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS LAUNCH OF AKHIL AMAR'S NEW BOOK, *AMERICA'S CONSTITUTION: A BIOGRAPHY***

Philadelphia, PA (August 15, 2005) – Guests can join Akhil Reed Amar – professor of Constitutional law at Yale Law School and Yale College and a member of the National Constitution Center's Distinguished Scholars Advisory Panel – as he launches his new book, *AMERICA'S CONSTITUTION: A Biography*. The program will take place on September 19, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in the Kirby Auditorium. Amar's unique book is full of information that either contradicts what is taught in school or raises issues that many might never have considered. His visit to the National Constitution Center is the first stop on his tour. Tickets cost \$6 for students, \$9 for members and \$12 for non-members. Reservations are required and can be made at 215-409-6700. A book signing will follow the program.

How democratic was the original Constitution? Was it anti-slavery, pro-slavery, or neutral? Why do we have the Electoral College? Why was 35 chosen as the age of eligibility for President? When was the word "male" added to the text, and why? In each of these instances and countless others, the Constitutional life story is different than it is generally understood—and much more fascinating. *AMERICA'S CONSTITUTION: A Biography* places the document in a broader legal context, looking at it as an ever unfolding story.

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## ADD ONE/AKHIL AMAR BOOK LAUNCH

Many of today's front page stories implicate the Constitution and carry forward the story that Amar tells. From Supreme Court nominations to Senate filibusters, to the war on terrorism and the separation of church and state, it is more important than ever that we have a fuller understanding of this elusive document, as it helps write the next chapter of our history.

Akhil Reed Amar has been a member of the Yale Law School faculty since 1985 and holds a joint appointment in Yale's political science department. He is the second youngest person in the university's history to receive tenure and an endowed chair. His book, *The Bill of the Rights*, was voted by the History Book Club members as one of their favorite books of the year, and his work has been cited by Supreme Court Justices in roughly 20 cases. Amar was the most highly cited scholar under 45 in the general law review literature (he's now 46). He lives in Woodbridge, Connecticut with his family.

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, the museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". From June 10 through November 4, the museum is also featuring its first new traveling exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. The Center is open seven days a week, and admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available.

The National Constitution Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and as a home for visiting scholars. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).