

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650
www.constitutioncenter.org

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CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

EXPERTS DISCUSS THE RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 23, 2008) – The Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, popularly known as the “Reconstruction Amendments,” profoundly altered – among other things – the rights of individuals, the power of the federal government, and the meaning of citizenship. To address the history and substance of the Reconstruction Amendments, and what those changes mean in our democracy today, the National Constitution Center welcomes 2008 Visiting Scholars **Martha Jones** and **Ted Shaw**, as well as special guest **Steven Calabresi** for a discussion titled “Deconstructing Reconstruction.” This program will take place on Thursday, November 13, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Martha Jones is assistant professor in the department of History and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan, visiting assistant professor in the Law School at the University of Michigan, and a 2008 Visiting Scholar at the National Constitution Center. She holds a Ph.D. in History from Columbia University and a J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law. Her first book, *All Bound Up Together: The Woman Question in African-American Public Culture, 1830-1900*, is an intellectual and cultural history of black women's public lives in nineteenth-century America. Her current work explores the relationship of African-Americans in Atlantic World legal culture in the pre-Civil War period.

Ted Shaw, former director-counsel and president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund from 2004 to 2008, is one of the nation's leading voices in civil rights. He graduated from Wesleyan University with honors and from the Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow. He also serves as Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, as the second appointee to the Phyllis Beck Chair at Temple Law School, and as a 2008 Visiting Scholar at the National Constitution Center.

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ADD ONE/DECONSTRUCTING RECONSTRUCTION

Steven Calabresi is the George C. Dix Professor of Law at Northwestern Law. He co-founded The Federalist Society and serves as the Chairman of the Society's Board of Directors. He served in the Reagan and Bush Administrations from 1985 to 1990; advised Attorney General Edwin Meese III and Ronald Reagan's Domestic Policy Chief, T. Kenneth Cribb; and wrote speeches for former Vice President Dan Quayle. Since joining the Northwestern faculty in 1990, Calabresi has published more than 30 articles and comments in law reviews.

Charles Lane, journalist and author of the recent book, *The Day Freedom Died: The Colfax Massacre, the Supreme Court, and the Betrayal of Reconstruction*, will moderate the program. Lane first learned of the Colfax Massacre case while covering the Supreme Court for *The Washington Post*. A former editor of *The New Republic*, Lane has written for *Foreign Affairs*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The Atlantic*. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard and studied law at Yale.

This program is part of the Center's *Legacy of 1808* series and is presented in partnership with The American Constitution Society and the University of Pennsylvania Law School. The *Legacy of 1808* speaker series is a year long dialogue at the National Constitution Center with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. 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". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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