

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER WELCOMES ELI LESSER AS DIRECTOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION AND CIVIC OUTREACH

PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 28, 2006) – The National Constitution Center welcomes **Eli Lesser** as Director of Teacher Education and Civic Outreach. Lesser joins the museum from the Annenberg Public Policy Center (APPC) at the University of Pennsylvania where he served as Educational Development Coordinator.

“Eli’s wealth of experience and knowledge in the area of civic education will make him a tremendous asset to our development of new educational programs,” says President and CEO Richard Stengel. “We are pleased to welcome him as a new member of our team.”

As Director of Teacher Education and Civic Outreach, Lesser is responsible for leading workshops for teachers, including the National Teacher Institute this summer, supplemented by a grant from the Annenberg Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He will also work closely with the Pennsylvania Coalition for Representative Democracy (PennCORD), a unique union of educational, advocacy, and governmental organizations that are committed to improving civic learning for students in grades K-12. Lesser will also direct teacher education efforts for Constitution Day.

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Before joining the Constitution Center, Lesser worked on a variety of civic education programs for the APPC, including the Justice Learning website, Student Voices curriculum and various Constitution Day media projects. He previously spent six years as a middle and high school social studies teacher in both public and independent schools in Virginia and Delaware. He is the author of several publications, including a forthcoming article in the journal “Insights on Law & Society” for the American Bar Association, and has made numerous presentations on civic education.

Lesser holds a masters degree in social studies education from the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University and received his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Delaware. He currently resides in Center City with his wife Kimberly.

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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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 and debates, and is a partner of NPR’s “Justice Talking,” a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving 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 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin’s 300th birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.gophila.com/ben.