

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall  
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650  
[www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

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CONTACT: Denise Venuti Free  
Director of Public Relations  
215.409.6636  
[dvfree@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:dvfree@constitutioncenter.org)

## FIRST AMENDMENT ALL-STARS DISCUSS FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AT NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

*Time's* Matt Cooper and Judge Louis Pollak Featured

PHILADELPHIA, PA (August 18, 2005) — In a program marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the significant First Amendment case, *Gitlow v. New York*, the National Constitution Center will explore the issues challenging a free press ranging from protecting confidential sources to aggressive reporting in wartime. The **Honorable Louis Pollak**, federal judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, will be joined by **Floyd Abrams**, **Matt Cooper**, **Anthony Lewis**, and **Ronald Collins** for “How Free is the Free Press?,” at the National Constitution Center on Wednesday, September 14.

Judge Pollak will present a speech on the state of the free press in the United States 80 years after the Supreme Court decision in *Gitlow v. New York* applied the free press clause of the First Amendment to the states. Judge Pollak, the former dean of the law schools at Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, will take the audience through the back story of the *Gitlow case*, *which* his father argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. His speech will be followed by a discussion between the other participants and the public, moderated by National Constitution Center President and CEO Richard Stengel.

The program, which is co-sponsored by the National Constitution Center, the University of Pennsylvania Law School, the Society of Professional Journalists-Philadelphia chapter and the *Journal of Constitutional Law of the University of Pennsylvania*, will begin at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. Tickets are \$9 for National Constitution Center members, \$12 for the general public, and \$6 for students. Seating is limited, and reservations are required, either by phone at 215-409-6700 or email at [nationalprograms@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:nationalprograms@constitutioncenter.org).

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Judge Louis Pollak was appointed to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1978. From 1975 to 1978, he was the Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He taught there from 1974 to his retirement upon being named to the district bench, and he continues to teach a seminar as an adjunct professor. From 1955 to 1974, Pollak was on the faculty of Yale law school, serving as dean from 1965 to 1970. Upon graduating from law school, he clerked for Supreme Court Justice Wiley B. Rutledge. He is the author of *The Constitution and the Supreme Court: A Documentary History*, as well as numerous articles.

Floyd Abrams is the William J. Brennan Professor of First Amendment Issues at the Columbia University School of Journalism. He is a noted First Amendment attorney lawyer, representing *The New York Times* in the landmark Pentagon Papers case. He has argued before the Supreme Court on many of the most important media and First Amendment cases over the past 30 years and has taken on the cases of lawyers forced to reveal their confidential sources. Abrams is the author of *Speaking Freely: Trials of the First Amendment*.

Matt Cooper is the Washington bureau chief for *Time* magazine. He has also worked as a Washington correspondent for *Newsweek* and *U.S. News and World Report*. Cooper was a senior editor at the *New Republic*, where he profiled Washington insiders. Cooper is one of the two reporters embroiled in the case involving the protection of confidential sources in the investigation of the leak of a CIA officer's identity by the White House at the highest levels, including Karl Rove.

Anthony Lewis is best known as the for his *Gideon's Trumpet*, which tells the story of a convict who, alone, brought his argument to the Supreme Court that he was denied a fair trial because he was denied the right to an attorney. The case and his book are featured in the exhibits of the National Constitution Center. Lewis also wrote the 1991 book *Make No Law* about historic First Amendment libel case *New York Times v. Sullivan*. Lewis is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner for both his national reporting and his work on the Supreme Court.

Ronald Collins is a scholar at the First Amendment Center, a national education center that is a forum for the study and exploration of free-expression issues. He has taught constitutional law and commercial law at Temple Law School and George Washington Law School and is the

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author of *The Trials of Lenny Bruce* and *The Death of Discourse*. In 2003, he successfully petitioned Governor George Pataki of New York to posthumously pardon comedian Lenny Bruce, who was convicted of obscenity in 1964.

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).

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