

# 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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CONTACTS: Ashley Berke  
Director of Public Relations  
215.409.6693  
[aberke@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:aberke@constitutioncenter.org)

Alex Podmaska  
Public Relations Coordinator  
215.409.6895  
[apodmaska@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:apodmaska@constitutioncenter.org)

## GLOBAL CONSTITUTIONALISM DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

### *Should universal norms apply to constitutions around the world?*

Philadelphia, PA (April 8, 2010) – **A.E. Dick Howard**, White Burkett Miller Professor of Law and Public Affairs at the University of Virginia School of Law, will join the National Constitution Center for a lecture on global constitutionalism on Thursday, April 29, 2010 at 6:30 p.m., in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

The emergence of global constitutionalism has stirred debate regarding whether there are universal norms that ought to apply to constitutions around the world, or whether constitutions are ultimately contingent upon a nation's history, traditions, and culture. Professor Howard will discuss factors that, in the years since World War II, have stimulated an international conversation about constitutionalism, notably concern about human rights, the rise of judicial review, the uses of federalism and devolution, and the debate over whether the Supreme Court should cite foreign and comparative data in deciding constitutional cases.

Recognized as an expert in the fields of comparative constitutionalism, the Supreme Court, and constitutional law, A. E. Dick Howard has argued several cases before the Supreme Court of the United States. He often serves as a consultant to constitutional

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## ADD ONE/GLOBAL CONSTITUTIONALISM

draftsmen in America and abroad, and has helped to write the constitutions of Brazil, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Albania, Malawi, and South Africa. Howard served as executive director of the commission that wrote Virginia's current constitution, and has been counsel to the General Assembly of Virginia, as well as consultant to state and federal bodies, including the United States Senate Judiciary Committee. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, where he studied philosophy, politics, and economics. Howard is also the author of several monographs, including *Democracy's Dawn* and *Constitution-Making in Eastern Europe*.

The University of Pennsylvania Law School is a partner with the National Constitution Center's Visiting Scholars Program to promote constitutional scholarship by engaging scholars with the general public. Penn Law faculty and other distinguished constitutional scholars teach classes, conduct research and present lectures on important legal issues.

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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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