

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

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION DISCUSSED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (October 17, 2007) – The National Constitution Center, in partnership with the Juvenile Law Center, welcomes **Gerald Gault**, experts in the juvenile justice system, **Elizabeth Scott** and **Joanne Epps**, and other special guests to discuss the state of children's rights under the Constitution today, in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of *In Re Gault*. This event will take place on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In 1964, Gerald Gault of Arizona became a defendant in a landmark case, determining that proceedings for juveniles had to comply with the fourteenth amendment. At age 15, Gault was arrested, detained, and committed to the State Industrial School until he reached the age of 21 for making an obscene phone call to an adult neighbor. Claiming that several of Gault's constitutional rights were denied, an attorney obtained for Gault filed a writ of habeas corpus that was eventually heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. In an 8-1 decision, the Warren Court ruled that in hearings which could result in commitment to an institution, juveniles have the right to notice and counsel, to question witnesses, and to protection against self-incrimination. The Court found that the procedures used in Gault's hearing met none of these requirements.

Elizabeth Scott is the Harold R. Medina Professor of Law at Columbia Law School. Her research is interdisciplinary, applying behavioral economics, social science research, and developmental theory to family/juvenile law and policy issues. Currently, Scott is involved in empirical research on adolescents in the justice system as a member of the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Adolescent Development and Juvenile Justice.

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Moderating this program is Joanne Epps, a Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at Temple University Beasley School of Law. Professor Epps' teaching areas include Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, Evidence and Interviewing, and Counseling and Negotiation. From 1984 to 1989, Epps was a member of the Board of Directors for the Juvenile Law Center.

This program is presented in partnership with the **Juvenile Law Center**. Through legal advocacy, research, publications, public education and training, the Juvenile Law Center works to ensure that child welfare, juvenile justice and other public systems provide vulnerable children with the protection and services they need to become happy, healthy, and productive adults.

Support for this event was provided by the law firm of Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin.

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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