

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACTS: Denise Venuti Free
Director of Public Relations
215.409.6636
dvfree@constitutioncenter.org

Ashley Berke
Public Relations Coordinator
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER WELCOMES VISITING SCHOLAR MATTHEW PINSKER

PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 24, 2006) - The National Constitution Center is proud to welcome **Dr. Matthew Pinsker** as the museum's visiting scholar. Sponsored in collaboration with the University of Pennsylvania, the Center's lead academic partner, the visiting scholar program is designed to foster a higher level of public discourse on constitutional issues by engaging leading academics with programming at the Center. As part of Pinsker's one semester stay, he will assist in curriculum planning for teacher institutes, writing commentaries on constitutional issues in the news and developing teaching material. He will also instruct a graduate course at the University of Pennsylvania.

"We are very pleased to have Dr. Pinsker affiliated with the Center," says President and CEO Richard Stengel. "Matt's tremendous knowledge and expertise in various areas of our nation's history, including American constitutionalism, his superb teaching skills and his great enthusiasm for our mission will make him a great asset for the National Constitution Center and our development of civic-education curriculum."

Pinsker has taught courses on U.S. political, legal and diplomatic history at Dickinson College since 2002, where he is the Pohanka Chair in American Civil War History and an Assistant Professor of History. His research focuses on the career of Abraham Lincoln, the Underground Railroad and the history of U.S. campaigns and elections. Prior to Dickinson, Pinsker also taught at several Pennsylvania colleges and universities including Franklin and Marshall College, Millersville University, Gettysburg College and Haverford College.

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ADD ONE/MATTHEW PINSKER

Pinsker's educational background includes a doctorate degree in Modern history from the University of Oxford and an undergraduate degree from Harvard University. He is the author of two books on Abraham Lincoln; *Lincoln's Sanctuary: Abraham Lincoln and the Soldiers' Home* and *Abraham Lincoln: American Presidents Reference Series*, as well as numerous other essays and articles. He is also the recipient of several awards and honors including being named project director for "Landmarks of the Underground Railroad", a National Endowment for Humanities teacher training program for grades K-12.

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.

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