

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ANNOUNCES 2009 JOURNALIST FELLOWS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PETER JENNINGS PROJECT FOR JOURNALISTS AND THE CONSTITUTION

Fellows include international reporters from Afghanistan, Brazil, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe

Philadelphia, PA (February 6, 2009) – Thirty-six journalists from across the country and around the world have been selected to participate in the 2009 **Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution** at the National Constitution Center from February 27 through March 1, 2009. Named in honor of the late, award-winning news anchor and friend of the National Constitution Center, this annual conference gives journalists the opportunity to explore the constitutional dimension in the news today and acquire a deeper understanding of the Constitution and its important role in the lives of all Americans.

This year, for the first time, the Center is pleased to have seven non-US journalists joining the conference from overseas:

- Pedro Doria, *O Estado de Sao Paulo* (Brazil)
- Gibbs Dube, freelance journalist (Zimbabwe)
- Nasim Fekrat, *Afghan Press* (Afghanistan)
- Grace Githaiga, *EcoNews Africa* (Kenya)
- Masuma Ibrahim, Association of Afghan Blog Writers (Afghanistan)
- Rosangela Malachias, freelance journalist (Brazil)
- Namal Perera, Sri Lanka Press Institute (Sri Lanka)

2009 Peter Jennings Project Fellows also include:

- Maud Beelman, *Dallas Morning News*
- Jami Brinton, KCRG TV-9 News, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Charles Cieri, *Philadelphia City Paper*
- Babak Dehghanpisheh, *Newsweek*
- Benjamin Domenech, *The City*
- Johnny Dwyer, freelance journalist
- Raymund Flandez, *Wall Street Journal*

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ADD ONE/2009 FELLOWS

- Beth Frerking, Politico.com
- E.J. Graff, Brandeis University's Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism
- David Gura, NPR
- Nathan Guttman, *The Forward*
- Rob Harris, *New York Times*
- Julia Klein, freelance journalist
- Doris Lewis, 10 News San Diego
- John McChesney, freelance journalist
- Allison Morrow, *Wall Street Journal*
- Chris O'Connell, CBS News
- Dorothy Parvaz, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*
- Margo Pierce, *City Beat*
- Martha Raddatz, ABC News
- Chip Reid, CBS News
- Robert Rivard, *San Antonio Express News*
- Richard Robbins, The Documentary Group
- Sara Robbins, BBC News America
- Harry Siegel, Politico.com
- Ernie Suggs, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
- Jake Tapper, ABC News
- David Van Biema, *TIME*
- Jessica Yellin, CNN

Through a variety of programs, the Jennings Fellows will experience how the constitutional discussion in the United States is not limited to the domain of the court system, academic exchange, and civics classes; it becomes part of our daily lives, and therefore, affects much of what journalists write, broadcast, edit, and produce.

The theme for this year's conference is "The Presidency." The Fellows will participate in the following events:

- *A Moot Court: The War Powers Resolution*: This hypothetical Supreme Court case will test the constitutionality of the War Powers Resolution, and will be argued by distinguished legal scholars and Jennings faculty Kenneth W. Starr, Dean of the Pepperdine University School of Law, and Erwin Chemerinsky, Dean of the University of California at Irvine School of Law, before a panel of equally distinguished judges.
- *Behind the Scenes: The Executive Response to 9/11*: High-ranking members of the Bush Administration will discuss what went on behind closed doors in the White House Situation Room, at the Pentagon, and on Air Force One on the day of the 9/11 attacks and its immediate aftermath.

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ADD TWO/2009 FELLOWS

- *Off the Record: The First 100 Days*: This intimate, insider's look at what it takes to build and operate a White House staff during the first 100 days will feature a conversation about several 20th Century presidents with biographers Jonathan Alter, Lou Cannon, Robert Dallek, and Richard Reeves.

The Peter Jennings Project for Journalists and the Constitution is made possible through the generosity of The Annenberg Foundation.

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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