

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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HISTORIAN RICHARD BEEMAN GOES BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE FRAMING OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

PHILADELPHIA, PA (March 2, 2009) – The framers of the U.S. Constitution wrote a document that would live longer than they ever imagined, and, more than two hundred years after it was written, debate about its interpretation still rages. Historian **Richard Beeman** will join the National Constitution Center to discuss his dramatic, new account of the making of the Constitution, *Plain, Honest Men*, on Monday, March 23, 2009 at 6:30 pm. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Plain, Honest Men takes readers behind the scenes and beyond the debate to show how the world's most enduring constitution was forged through conflict, compromise, and, eventually, fragile consensus. Virtually all of the issues the delegates argued that summer—the extent of presidential power, the nature of federalism, and the role of slavery—have continued to provoke conflict throughout our nation's history.

Richard Beeman is a professor of history at the University of Pennsylvania and the author of five books on the history of revolutionary America, including a biography of Patrick Henry, which was a finalist for the National Book Award. He has received awards from the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities, and has served as Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford University. He also serves as a trustee and vice-chair of the Distinguished Scholars Panel of the National Constitution Center.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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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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