

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TACKLES SAME-SEX MARRIAGE ISSUE IN FIRST OF “GREAT DEBATE” SERIES

*Judge Robert H. Bork and Yale law Professor William Eskridge, Jr. among panelists
of “Same-Sex Marriage: Do We Need A Federal Marriage Amendment?”*

Philadelphia, PA (May 7, 2004) – Six national experts, including Judge Robert H. Bork and Yale law Professor William Eskridge, Jr., will discuss the constitutionality of same-sex marriages at the National Constitution Center on Friday, May 21, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Kirby Auditorium of the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach. The free event, “Same-Sex Marriage: Do We Need A Federal Marriage Amendment?” will be moderated by Constitution Center President and CEO Richard Stengel. The audience will be encouraged to ask questions and debate the issues with the panelists.

The discussion will focus on the following questions:

- What is the difference between gay marriage and civil unions?
- Is the Constitution the tool to use to legislate against gay marriage?
- Is marriage a state or federal issue?
- Has the legal institutionalization of marriage confused the sacrament of marriage with the civil rights of citizens under the Constitution?

“The National Constitution Center’s goal is to consistently raise the level of constitutional conversation in the country by focusing on current issues that affect all Americans,” said President and CEO Richard Stengel. “This program is a great example of the kinds of current issues we want to highlight.”

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Add One/Same-Sex Marriage Debate

Panelists include:

Judge Robert H. Bork: One of the authors of the Federal Marriage Amendment, Bork specializes in constitutional and antitrust law, as well as cultural issues. He has appeared on *Larry King Live*, *Good Morning America* and *NewsHour*, and has been published in the *Wall Street Journal* and the *National Review*. Bork was a Professor at Yale Law School from 1962-1975 and 1977-1981.

William Eskridge, Jr.: As the John A. Garver Professor of Jurisprudence at Yale Law School, Eskridge is a noted scholar of constitutional law, statutory legislation, gender and sexuality law and hate crimes. He is also the author of many publications, including *The Case for Same-Sex Marriage: From Sexual Liberty to Civilized Commitment*, 1996; *Constitutional Stupidities, Constitutional Tragedies* (ed. with S. Levinson), 1998; and *Cases and Materials on Constitutional Law: Themes for the Constitution's Third Century* (with D.A. Farber and P.P. Frickey), 1993 (2nd ed., 1998).

Bob Barr: Author of the Defense of Marriage Act, Barr represented the 7th District of Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1995 to 2003, serving as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee. He is a contributing editor for *The American Spectator*, has served as a commentator for CNN and is the host of "Bob Barr's Laws of the Universe," a weekly radio show on the Radio America network. Barr also occupies the 21st Century Liberties Chair for Freedom and Privacy at the American Conservative Union and is a member of the Legal Advisory Board for Southeastern Legal Foundation.

Gary Bauer: President of American Values, a non-profit organization committed to conservative ideals, Bauer has become one of America's most well known and leading voices for conservatism and the defense of Israel. He was a 2000 Republican presidential contender and former domestic policy advisor to President Ronald Reagan

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Add Two/Same-Sex Marriage Debate

and founded the political action committee, the Campaign for Working Families. Bauer is the author of *Our Journey Home*, 1992; and *Our Hopes, Our Dreams: A Vision For America*, 1996.

Andrew Sullivan: Writer, columnist and former editor of *The New Republic* magazine, Sullivan has been a pioneer for issues such as gays in the military and same-sex marriage since the early 1990s. He has freelanced for the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Washington Post*, the *Daily Telegraph*, and *Esquire*. The second edition of his book, *Same-Sex Marriage: Pro and Con*, will be released on May 17, 2004. Sullivan will sign copies of his new book following the program.

Karla Drenner: Georgia State Representative Karla Drenner is the only openly gay Georgia legislator. She is the owner and president of an environmental safety and health consulting firm and has published the book *One: The True Story of Politics, Prayer and The Power of One*. Drenner is one of the most visible opponents of a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages.

A cash bar will be available from 6 - 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited. For reservations, call 215-409-6700. For questions, e-mail adultprograms@constitutioncenter.org, or call 215-409-6700.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization established by Congress in 1988 to increase understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to the daily lives of Americans. It is the first museum in the world devoted to dramatically telling the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibit components, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts. The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for

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Add Three/Same-Sex Marriage Debate

Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates; and as a home for visiting scholars and experts. For more information, please call 215.923.0004 or visit the Center's Web site at www.constitutioncenter.org.

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