

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

LEGAL SCHOLARS AND COURT EXPERTS PARTICIPATE IN A SUPREME COURT REVIEW AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (June 19, 2009) – As the Supreme Court of the United States concludes its current session, veteran Supreme Court correspondent **Lyle Denniston** will lead a discussion at the National Constitution Center with **Miguel A. Estrada**, attorney and frequent Court advocate; **Dahlia Lithwick**, senior editor and legal correspondent for Slate; and **Richard H. Pildes**, Sudler Family Professor of Constitutional Law at New York University School of Law. The panelists will discuss the most significant rulings of the recent term, how the decisions will impact the lives of Americans, and how the nature of the Court may change when Justice David H. Souter's successor joins the bench. This program will take place on July 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Admission costs \$9 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$7 for students and teachers. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Lyle Denniston, now in his 61st year as a journalist, has reported on the Supreme Court for 51 years, covering one fourth of the Justices ever to sit on the Supreme Court bench. Denniston is currently covering the Court for SCOTUSblog, an online clearinghouse of information about the Supreme Court's work. He is also the author of *The Reporter and the Law: Techniques of Covering the Courts* and two chapters in *100 Americans Making Constitutional History*.

Miguel A. Estrada is a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. He is Co-Chair of the firm's Appellate and Constitutional Law Practice Group. He was part of the team that successfully presented then-Governor Bush's position to the Supreme Court in *Bush v. Gore*. From 1992 until 1997, Estrada

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served as Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States. He previously served as Assistant U.S. Attorney and Deputy Chief of the Appellate Section, U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York, and as a clerk for Anthony M. Kennedy, United States Supreme Court.

Dahlia Lithwick writes the column "Supreme Court Dispatches" for Slate, covering the Microsoft trial and other legal issues. Prior to joining Slate, Lithwick worked for a family law firm in Reno, NV and clerked for Procter Hug, chief justice of the ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. She currently serves as a weekly legal commentator for the NPR show, Day to Day. She is also the co-author of *Me v. Everybody: Absurd Contracts for an Absurd World* and *I Will Sing Life: Voices from the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp*.

Richard H. Pildes is one of the nation's leading academics, lawyers, and public commentators on legal issues concerning the design of democratic processes and institutions. He is co-author of the casebook, *The Law of Democracy*, and an editor of *The Future of the Voting Rights Act*. His major academic work focuses on the role of Congress and the President in areas of national security, war, and foreign affairs range; political parties; separation of powers; the Voting Rights Act; the history of disfranchisement; and numerous issues in constitutional theory. Pildes previously served as a law clerk to Justice Thurgood Marshall, United States Supreme Court.

This program is part of the Knight Constitutional Conversation Series, which has been generously underwritten by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes excellence in journalism worldwide and invests in the vitality of the U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Knight Foundation focuses on projects with the potential to create transformational change. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.

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

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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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