

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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THE HIDDEN ASSAULT ON OUR CIVIL RIGHTS: A DISCUSSION WITH YALE PROFESSOR KENJI YOSHINO AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

PHILADELPHIA, PA (February 14, 2006) – On Thursday, March 7, 2006 at 6:30 p.m., the National Constitution Center will explore the continually shifting gray areas in American civil rights with Kenji Yoshino, an openly gay, Asian American Yale Law Professor and author of *Covering: A Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights*. Admission is \$12 for members, \$15 for non-members and \$6 for students and K-12 teachers. The event is co-sponsored by the *Philadelphia Gay News*. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In his book, Yoshino examines the phenomenon of “covering,” which he explains as occurring when individuals feel pressure to downplay what some perceive as a disfavored trait – whether it is race, religion, sexual orientation, or other qualities – in order to blend into the mainstream. Despite laws in place against penalizing individuals for differences based on race, age, sexual orientation, physical disability and religion, Yoshino believes we still routinely deny equal treatment to those who refuse to downplay their differences, or those who cover. *Covering* has been praised by *Publisher’s Weekly* as an “eloquent, poetic protest against the hidden prejudices embedded in American civil rights legislation—legislation that tacitly apologizes for ‘immutable’ human difference from the white, male, straight norm, rather than defending one’s ‘right to say what one is.’”

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ADD ONE/YOSHINO PROGRAM

Kenji Yoshino is Deputy Dean for Intellectual Life and Professor of Law at Yale Law School where his concentration is in constitutional law, anti-discrimination law and Japanese law and society. He received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a master's degree from Oxford. A graduate of Yale Law School himself, he has clerked for Judge Guido Calabresi of the U.S. Court of Appeals, 2nd Circuit.

The event will be moderated by the National Constitution Center's Anthony Green, Vice President for Programs and National Outreach.

Located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's historic Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, 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 National Constitution Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education and debates, and as a home for visiting scholars. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional debate, 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.constitutioncenter.org.

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