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**PANEL TO DEBATE PHONE RECORDS
AND THE FOURTH AMENDMENT
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Part of Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates

Philadelphia, PA (September 30, 2014) – Described as “always intelligent and provocative” (*Wall Street Journal*), the award-winning NPR show [Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates \(IQ2US\)](#) returns to the National Constitution Center for a no-holds-barred debate this time focusing on phone records and the Fourth Amendment. Following the traditional Oxford-style debate format, with one side proposing and the other side opposing a topic, the interactive program asks the audience to vote both before and after the debate, thus judging which team has had more influence in their argument. The debate will take place **Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.** and will feature top scholars including **Stewart Baker**, former assistant secretary of Homeland Security and former NSA general counsel, **John Yoo**, professor of law at UC Berkeley and former Justice Department lawyer, **Alex Abdo**, staff attorney at the ACLU Speech, Privacy and Technology Project, and **Elizabeth Wydra**, chief counsel at the Constitutional Accountability Center. **John Donvan** of ABC News moderates. *This program is supported by the Daniel Berger Programming Fund.*

Admission to the program is \$30 for non-members and \$25 for members. Reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 215-409-6700 or visiting constitutioncenter.org.

The debate will examine whether the random collection of U.S. phone records is an invasion of privacy. Many Americans were unhappy with news of these searches. U.S. District Judge Richard Leon was quoted saying, "I cannot imagine a more 'indiscriminate' and 'arbitrary invasion' than this systematic and high-tech collection and retention of personal data on virtually every citizen for purposes of querying and analyzing it without

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prior judicial approval." Yet others believe that this search is necessary to combat terrorist groups and keep the U.S. safe. The debate will analyze what the U.S. Constitution says on the matter. "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." Where does this place the collection of phone records in reference to the Fourth Amendment? These topics and more will be the controversial, constitutional concepts discussed during the debate.

Arguing For the Motion

As a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, [Alex Abdo](#) is currently a Staff Attorney in the ACLU's Speech, Privacy and Technology Project. Before working at the ACLU, Abdo served as a law clerk to the Hon. Barbara M.G. Lynn, United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, and to the Hon. Rosemary Barkett, United States Circuit Judge for the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to joining the SPT, Alex was an attorney with the National Security Project, where he was involved in litigation of cases, some of which concerning the Patriot Act, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and the treatment of detainees.

[Elizabeth Wydra](#) is a graduate of Yale Law School and is currently the Constitutional Accountability Center's chief counsel, representing the Center as well as clients. Wydra has argued several important cases in the federal courts of appeals on a range of issues, including immigration law, habeas corpus, and sovereign immunity. She regularly participates in Supreme Court litigation and her legal brief writing has been recognized as "exemplary" by the Green Bag Almanac & Reader. Her writings have appeared in various outlets, including numerous political and legal blogs. She has appeared as a legal expert for NBC, ABC, CNN, Fox News, the BBC, Current TV, and NPR, among other outlets.

Arguing Against the Motion

[Stewart Baker](#) is currently a partner in the Washington office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP. He returned to the firm following over 3 years at the Department of Homeland Security as its first Assistant Secretary for Policy. At Homeland Security he was responsible for

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policy analysis across the Department, as well as for the Department's international affairs, strategic planning and relationships with law enforcement and public advisory committees. Some of Baker's key accomplishments with the DHS were devising a new approach to visa-free travel, forging a congressional and interagency consensus on the plan and negotiating acceptance with key governments. Baker has been named a Top Lawyer in National Security by Washingtonian magazine, in 2011, and 2013.

Scholar [John Yoo](#) received his B.A., summa cum laude, from Harvard University as well as his J.D. from Yale Law School. Professor Yoo joined the Boalt faculty in 1993 and then served as general counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee from 1995-96. From 2001 to 2003, he served as a deputy assistant attorney general in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he worked on issues involving foreign affairs, national security and the separation of powers. Professor Yoo held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of Trento. He has also received the Paul M. Bator Award for excellence in legal scholarship and teaching from the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy.

About Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates (IQ2US)

Winner of the 2013 Silver Radio Award for Best Public Affairs Program and named one of the "Five Podcasts that Will Change the Way You Think" by Forbes, Intelligence Squared U.S. (IQ2US) was founded in New York City in 2006 by Robert Rosenkranz, and has grown into an internationally syndicated series heard and watched by millions. The debates have attracted some of the world's top thinkers, including Steven Forbes, Paul Krugman, Karl Rove, Malcolm Gladwell, and Arianna Huffington. With over 80 debates, IQ2US has encouraged the public to "think twice" on a wide range of provocative topics. Author and ABC News correspondent John Donvan has moderated IQ2US since 2008. The executive producer is Dana Wolfe. For more information, visit intelligencesquaredus.org. IQ2US was last at the National Constitution Center in March of 2014 for a debate surrounding the use of targeted drone attacks on U.S. citizens overseas.

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About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](https://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia is the Museum of We the People, America's Town Hall, and a Headquarters for Civic Education. As the **Museum of We the People**, the National Constitution Center brings the United States Constitution to life for visitors of all ages and inspires active citizenship by celebrating the American constitutional tradition. The museum features interactive exhibits, engaging theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As the only institution established by Congress to "disseminate information about the United States Constitution on a non-partisan basis," the National Constitution Center serves as a **Headquarters for Civic Education**—offering cutting-edge learning resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As **America's Town Hall**, the National Constitution Center hosts timely constitutional conversations uniting distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists from across the political spectrum. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](https://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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