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**FREE SPEECH TO TAKE CENTER STAGE
AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER'S FREEDOM DAY 2016**

Philadelphia, PA (March 29, 2016) – The future of free speech will be the focus of the National Constitution Center's second annual Freedom Day celebration on Wednesday, April 13, 2016. Some of the nation's top thought-leaders in tech, media, education, and business will explore the challenges facing free speech on online, on social media, and on campuses. The National Constitution Center will also host special Freedom Day activities to engage visitors and schools groups.

The invite-only evening symposium will include panels exploring whether we should restrict speech promoting terrorism online, co-sponsored by Facebook, the impact a new Supreme Court justice will have on First Amendment cases, and free speech on campus, co-sponsored by the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE) and *SPIKED Online*. The event will conclude with an interview with **David Rubenstein**, Co-Founder and Co-CEO of The Carlyle Group, discussing what the founding documents can teach us about freedom. Speakers on the online speech panel include **Monika Bickert**, Head of Global Policy Management, Facebook; **Geoffrey R. Stone**, Edward H. Levi Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago Law School; and **Eric Posner**, Kirkland and Ellis Distinguished Service Professor of Law, University of Chicago Law School. The Next Justice and the Future of Free Speech will be a conversation with **Adam Liptak**, Supreme Court Correspondent, *The New York Times*. The final panel, Free Speech on Campus, will include **Susan M. Herman**, President, ACLU; **Frederick M. Lawrence**, former president, Brandeis University; **Greg Lukianoff**, President and CEO, Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE); **Brendan O'Neill**, Editor, *SPIKED*; and **Catherine J. Ross**, Professor of Law, GW Law; Author, *Lessons in Censorship: How Schools and Courts Subvert Students' First Amendment Rights*.

"We are thrilled to bring together such an impressive array of thought-leaders to discuss the future of free speech," said Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. "The National Constitution Center is the only institution in these polarized times where people across the country and around the world can come together to debate, celebrate, and educate themselves about the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution."

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Frayda Levin, a libertarian philanthropist who developed the symposium in conjunction with the National Constitution Center, said, “We want this day to become a larger movement, not just serve as a one-off event. The purpose of Freedom Day is to help people appreciate what freedoms we enjoy every day in our lives. We hope to hold the event for years to come.”

The entire event will be livestreamed on the National Constitution Center’s website at constitutioncenter.org/freedom-day.

In addition to the events at the Center itself, the National Constitution Center and its education partners are developing and distributing document-based K-12 lesson plans and resources for Freedom Day. Education partners include: The Constitutional Sources Project (ConSource), the Bill of Rights Institute, the Civics Renewal Network, and Annenberg Classroom. Click the links below to learn more about the educational resources available to K-12 grade levels:

[Elementary School Freedom Day Resources](#)

[Middle School Freedom Day Resources](#)

[High School Freedom Day Resources](#)

As colleges and universities across the country wrestle with issues surrounding free speech, the National Constitution Center is convening a network of student organizations to promote civil dialogue and debate on their campuses leading up to and on Freedom Day. Participating student organization partners include: Young Americans for Liberty, the American Whig–Closophic Society, Students for Liberty, Institute for Humane Studies, Intercollegiate Studies Institute and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE). For more, visit: <http://constitutioncenter.org/debate/freedom-day/host-an-event-on-campus>.

This year, the National Constitution Center will partner with the Adlai Stevenson Invitational Tournament of Princeton University’s American Whig–Closophic Society. This tournament is held annually on April 1, shortly before Freedom Day. Last year, the tournament included 125 teams from 42 campuses. The winning team will visit the Center on Freedom Day to serve as judges for the final round of the Harlan Institute’s Virtual Supreme Court competition for high school students on the constitutionality of affirmative action. The Harlan Institute works to ensure understanding of our most fundamental laws, introducing students to the Constitution, U.S. Supreme Court cases, and our justice system.

About Freedom Day

Freedom Day was launched on April 13, 2015 at the National Constitution Center, headquartered on Independence Mall in Philadelphia, bringing together an unprecedented, ideologically diverse group of the nation’s leading thinkers for conversations on the future of freedom. The goal of Freedom Day is to encourage citizens of all ages, across the country — in classrooms, on college campuses, and in local communities — to take time to explore and appreciate their unique freedoms as Americans.

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About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](http://constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires active citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a non-partisan basis." As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America's Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

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