

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS AND TOPICS FOR  
SPRING/SUMMER 2017 AMERICA'S TOWN HALL**

**Topics include Judge Gorsuch's Supreme Court nomination, the rise of "fake news," Madison's vision of freedom, *Loving v. Virginia*, the future of Congress, and the Constitution and economic equality**

**Guests include U.S. Senator Mike Lee, top conservative commentator David Horowitz, ACLU President Susan Herman, and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George F. Will**

Philadelphia, PA (Thursday, March 30, 2017) – The National Constitution Center today announced the spring/summer 2017 lineup for its popular *America's Town Hall* series of constitutional conversations and debates convening leading experts to explore some of the most important constitutional issues at the center of public life, including Judge Gorsuch's Supreme Court nomination, the rise of "fake news," Madison's vision of freedom, *Loving v. Virginia*, the future of Congress, and the Constitution and economic equality. Featured guests include ACLU President Susan Herman Senator Mike Lee and David Horowitz who will discuss their new books, *Written Out of History* (Lee) and *Big Agenda* (Horowitz).

On Thursday, April 13, the National Constitution Center will host one of its flagship events — the third annual Freedom Day celebration. The program will explore what James Madison and the Framers would have thought of our current presidency, Congress, courts, and media and will launch a bipartisan national initiative: *A Madisonian Constitution for All*. Freedom Day's blockbuster lineup will explore how to resurrect Madisonian constitutional values in the face of populist threats in America and around the world, with thought leaders and public officials from across the ideological spectrum, including a keynote address by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist George F. Will.

In addition, the Constitution Center will once again bring together leading court watchers for the annual Supreme Court review and will commemorate constitutional history, including the 100th anniversary of American entry into World War I, the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's landmark decision lifting state bans on interracial marriage (*Loving v. Virginia*), the birth of American nationalism in the early republic, and more.

The Constitution Center will continue its mission of promoting civil discussion and debate in cities across the nation, traveling to San Francisco, CA on June 6 for an Intelligence Squared debate on privacy, technology, and the Constitution—an *America's Town Hall* debate in partnership with Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates and sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation.

The National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* series features distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists who speak on the most significant constitutional topics of our time. Many of the Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* programs are free for Members and reservations are recommended as programs fill quickly. To make a reservation call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org/debate](http://constitutioncenter.org/debate).

Please see below for a complete list of *America's Town Hall* spring/summer 2017 programming.

**Spring/Summer 2017 America's Town Hall Programming:**

**Economic Equality and the Constitution**

6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

**Barry Lynn** of New America and **Ganesh Sitaraman**, author of *The Crisis of the Middle-Class Constitution* and former counsel to Elizabeth Warren, explore how the Constitution informs our current debates about income inequality, monopolies, and more. Includes book sale.

**100 Years Later: America in World War I**

12 p.m., Wednesday, April 12

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war against Germany, catapulting the nation into World War I. **Brian Balogh**, history professor at the University of Virginia, **Will Englund**, author of *March 1917*, and **Michael Kazin**, author of *War Against War*, come together 100 years later to discuss the impact of the war at home. Includes book sale.

**Third Annual Freedom Day Symposium**

4:30 – 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 13

*Invitation-only with limited seating for Members*

In conjunction with the launch of the Constitution Center's bipartisan commission *A Madisonian Constitution for All*, this year's symposium explores what James Madison and the Framers would think of today's presidency, Congress, courts, and media and how we can resurrect Madisonian values today. The event features a blockbuster lineup, including Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist **George F. Will**, ACLU President **Susan N. Herman**, and New York Times Co. CEO **Mark Thompson**.

**The Next Justice: How Neil Gorsuch Could Shape the Supreme Court**

6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 20

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

**Joan Biskupic** of Reuters News, **Brianne Gorod** of the Constitutional Accountability Center, and **Ilya Shapiro** of the Cato Institute discuss the judge's record and his potential to shape the Court — and constitutional law — for decades to come.

**Defining Truth in Modern Politics**

6:30 p.m., Monday, May 1

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

The rise of "fake news," the growth of political polarization, and the fracturing of the media have all contributed to a troubling phenomenon: increasingly, citizens are asserting their own "truths." Experts including, **Susan Glasser** of *POLITICO*, **Glenn Kessler** of *The Washington Post*, and **Brian Stelter** of CNN, come together to take stock of the problem and suggest solutions.

**Floyd Abrams: The Soul of the First Amendment**

12 p.m., Monday, May 8

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

**Floyd Abrams**, celebrated First Amendment lawyer, discusses his new book, *The Soul of the First Amendment*, and examines the degree to which American law protects free speech more often, more intensely, and more controversially than anywhere else in the world. Includes book sale.

**David Horowitz:** President Trump's Agenda

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 16

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

**David Horowitz**, one of the nation's foremost conservative commentators and a mentor to many of Donald Trump's key advisers, unveils his new book, *Big Agenda* — an assessment of the challenges the new president faces and a road map for an agenda that address them. Includes book sale.

**Carol Berkin:** The Crises of the 1790's and the Birth of American Nationalism

12 p.m., Thursday, May 18

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

**Carol Berkin**, professor of history at City University of New York, discusses her new book, *A Sovereign People*, and explores how George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and John Adams navigated the nation through four major crises and caused the first stirrings of American nationalism. Includes book sale.

**Mike Lee:** The Forgotten Founders Who Fought Big Government

1 p.m., Wednesday, May 31

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

Senator **Mike Lee**, Constitution Center honorary congressional visiting scholar and co-chair of the *A Madisonian Constitution for All* Commission, tells the story of the lesser-known Founders whose warnings about the dangers of an all-powerful federal government helped shaped our Constitution. Includes book sale.

**Traveling America's Town Hall Program – Intelligence Squared U.S. Debate:** Tech Companies Should Be Required to Help Law Enforcement Execute Search Warrants to Access Customer Data

6 – 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 6 – San Francisco Jazz Center, 201 Franklin Street (at Fell), San Francisco, CA

*\$30 General public • \$15 Seniors • \$10 Students*

Tech companies promise to protect data from prying eyes. But should that promise yield to law enforcement and national security? Explore privacy, technology, and the Constitution in San Francisco with this Intelligence Squared Debate. For more information and a list of participants, [click here](#).

*Presented in partnership with Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates and sponsored by the Templeton Foundation.*

**The Loving Story Film Screening**

6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 8

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*, the Constitution Center presents a screening of the award-winning HBO documentary *The Loving Story* — the definitive account of the landmark 1967 Supreme Court decision that legalized interracial marriage. *This film is courtesy of Icarus Films and directed by Nancy Buirski.*

**What Happened to Congress?**

6:30 p.m., Monday, June 19

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

Whether by executive overreach or internal dysfunction, Congress appears to have given up some of its power. **Josh Chafetz**, author of *Congress's Constitution*, **Carl Hulse**, chief Washington correspondent of *The New York Times*, and **David Mayhew**, author of *The Imprint of Congress*, discuss why and what, if anything, Congress can do to take its power back. Includes book sale.

**John Avlon:** Washington's Warning to Future Generations

12 p.m., Wednesday, June 21

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

**John Avlon**, editor-in-chief of *The Daily Beast*, discusses the first president's momentous and prescient farewell address to the nation and how the address could help reunite our America through the lessons rooted in Washington's experience. Includes book sale.

**Sidney Blumenthal:** The Political Life of Lincoln, 1849-1856

12 p.m., Wednesday, June 28

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

**Sidney Blumenthal**, author of *Wrestling With His Angel*, brings Lincoln from the wilderness to the peak of his career as he takes control of the nation's most profound spiritual crisis — slavery — and enters the battle for the nation's soul. Includes book sale.

### **2017 Annual Supreme Court Review**

12 – 1:30 p.m., Thursday, July 6

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members • \$35 w/ CLE Credit*

Distinguished legal experts **Erwin Chemerinsky**, **Frederick Lawrence**, and Slate's **Dahlia Lithwick**, examine the Supreme Court's 2016-17 session.

*Presented in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League.*

**Owen Fiss:** Lawyers and the Liberal Tradition

12:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 11

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

**Owen Fiss**, leading constitutional theorist and Yale Law professor, explores the purpose and possibilities of life in the law through moving accounts of 13 lawyers who shaped the legal world during the past half century. Includes book sale.

### **Coming This Season**

#### **Digital Privacy in the 21st Century**

Leading experts consider the future of the Fourth Amendment in the digital age, reflecting on the challenges that new technologies pose to existing constitutional doctrine and privacy laws and discuss how best to balance privacy and security in the 21st century.

**Chris Hayes:** A Colony in a Nation

**Chris Hayes**, MSNBC host and editor at large at *The Nation*, discusses his new book exploring, U.S. race relations, law and order, and the historical development of two Americas — a colony and a nation. Includes book sale.

The National Constitution Center's onsite Town Hall programs are generously supported by the

Paul S. Levy Programming Fund.

The National Constitution Center's traveling Town Hall debates also receive support from a multi-year, multi-project \$5.5 million grant awarded by the John Templeton Foundation.

**About the National Constitution Center**

The [National Constitution Center](https://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires 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 nonpartisan 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](https://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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