

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER ANNOUNCES SPEAKERS AND TOPICS FOR SPRING/SUMMER  
2016 *AMERICA'S TOWN HALL*

Topics include Justice Scalia's Legacy, Obama's Supreme Court Nomination, the 14th Amendment, Free Speech, and Same-Sex Marriage

Guests include award-winning legal scholar David Cole, renowned legal scholar Randy Barnett, and lead plaintiff in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, Jim Obergefell

Philadelphia (April 6, 2016) – The National Constitution Center today announced the spring and summer 2016 lineup for its popular *America's Town Hall* series of constitutional conversations and debates. This season's lineup will explore the timely topics of the legacy of Justice Antonin Scalia, the Supreme Court nomination, the 14th Amendment, free speech, and same-sex marriage, among others. Guest speakers include award-winning legal scholar **David Cole**, renowned legal scholar **Randy Barnett** and lead plaintiff in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, **Jim Obergefell**.

In addition, on June 1, the 100th anniversary of the confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, **Jeffrey Rosen**, president and CEO of the National Constitution Center, will discuss his upcoming book, *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet* (Yale University Press).

This season the Center's *America's Town Hall* series will also travel to Washington, DC on April 25, in partnership with The Aspen Institute, for a constitutional conversation with Senators **Chris Coons** and **Mike Lee at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center**. *America's Town Hall* will then travel to Dallas, Texas in partnership with the American Constitution Society and The Federalist Society on May 5 to debate "Does the University of Texas's Use of Racial Preferences in Undergraduate Admissions Violate the Constitution?" This debate is sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation.

On May 19 the town hall series will travel to New York City, where NPR host **Diane Rehm** will discuss her new book, *On My Own*, about how the death of her husband inspired her to take to up a controversial cause: the right to die in America. This program is sponsored by the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund.

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 National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* programs are free 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 and summer programming.

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### **The History and the Future of the Criminal Justice Act**

6:30 p.m., Monday, April 11, 2016

*\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$15 public • Free for 1787 Members*

Top scholars and judges discuss one of the most significant pieces of legislation concerning the federal criminal justice system, the Criminal Justice Act, establishing the right to counsel in federal court under the Constitution's Sixth Amendment. *Presented in partnership with the Committee to Review the Criminal Justice Act Program.*

### **Second Annual Freedom Day Symposium**

*Invitation-only \*Watch the livestream at [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org)*

4:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Speakers include: **David Rubenstein** of the Carlyle Group, **Monika Bickert** of Facebook, **Susan Herman** of the ACLU, **Eric Posner** of the University of Chicago Law School, **Greg Lukianoff** of FIRE, **Brendan O'Neill** of Spiked, **Catherine Ross** of George Washington University Law School, **Geoffrey Stone** of the University of Chicago Law School, **Adam Liptak** of *The New York Times*, among others.

**Fergus Bordewich:** How Madison, Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government

12 p.m., Thursday, April 14, 2016

*Free*

Prize-winning author **Fergus Bordewich** tells the little-known dramatic story of the First Congress of 1789-1791, which created America. Includes book sale and signing.

**David Cole:** How Citizen Activists Can Make Constitutional Law

6:30 p.m., Monday, April 18, 2016

*\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$15 public • Free for 1787 Members*

Who makes our most fundamental laws? Many would answer the Supreme Court, but award-winning legal scholar **David Cole** disagrees. Cole sheds light on a vital, yet often overlooked, driver of constitutional change: ordinary citizens. Includes book sale and signing.

**James Traub:** The Militant Spirit of John Quincy Adams

12 p.m., Thursday, April 21, 2016

*Free*

Journalist and foreign policy expert **James Traub** unveils his essential biography on the life and complex political career of America's sixth president — from his upbringing as the son of Founding Father John Adams to his death on the floor of the House of Representatives. Includes book sale and signing. *Presented in conjunction with the Center's feature exhibit *Headed to the White House*.*

**TRAVELING TOWN HALL:** Honorary Congressional Scholar's Program Launch

6 p.m., Monday, April 25, 2016 – Washington D.C.

*Free*

Senators **Chris Coons** (D-DE) and **Mike Lee** (R-UT), the Center's inaugural Honorary Senatorial Scholars, travel to Washington D.C. for a constitutional conversation at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. *Presented in partnership with The Aspen Institute.*

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**Randy Barnett: Our Republican Constitution**

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 26, 2016

*\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$15 public • Free for 1787 Members*

Since the earliest days of the American republic, “We the People” has been viewed both as individuals and as a group, leading to two different visions of the Constitution. Renowned legal scholar **Randy Barnett** is joined by constitutional scholar **Gillian Metzger** to explain the origins of this central debate about the meaning of America. Includes book sale and signing.

**The Constitutional Legacy of Justice Antonin Scalia**

6:30 p.m., Monday, May 2, 2016

*Free for Members • \$7 teachers & students • \$15 public*

Three of Justice Scalia’s former law clerks: **Steven Calabresi** of Northwestern University School of Law, **Lee Otis** of the Federalist Society, and **Kevin Walsh** of the University of Richmond School of Law reflect on the late Justice and the future of constitutional interpretation.

**TRAVELING TOWN HALL: Does the University of Texas’s Use of Racial Preferences Violate the Constitution?**

5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 5, 2016 – Dallas, TX

*Free*

Law professors **Elise Boddie**, Rutgers School of Law-Newark, and **Gail Heriot**, University of San Diego Law School, debate issues surrounding affirmative action in Texas. Program will be held at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum. *Presented in partnership with The Federalist Society and the American Constitution Society. Sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation.*

**The History and Legacy of the 14th Amendment**

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 10, 2016

*Free for Members • \$7 teachers & students • \$15 public*

As part of the Second Founding celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Reconstruction Amendments, the Center hosts a discussion on the history and enduring relevance of the 14th Amendment. Participants include **Allen Guelzo**, **Gerard Magliocca**, **Theodore Shaw**, and Judges **Janice Rogers Brown**, **Bernice Donald**, and **Theodore McKee**. *Presented in partnership with Constitutional Accountability Center.*

**Karen Korematsu & Kermit Roosevelt: The Tragedy of Japanese Internment**

1 p.m., Thursday, May 12, 2016

*Free*

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, University of Pennsylvania Law Professor **Kermit Roosevelt** is joined by **Karen Korematsu**, founder of the Fred Korematsu Civil Rights Fund and daughter of the civil rights activist, to discuss Roosevelt’s latest novel, *Allegiance*. Includes book sale and signing.

**The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History**

12 p.m., Monday, May 16, 2016

*Free*

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The nation's foremost experts on the American presidency and the U.S. Constitution, **Michael Gerhardt**, **Ken Gormely**, **Barbara Perry**, and **Kenneth Starr** explain how each American president has confronted and shaped the Constitution. Includes book sale. *Presented in conjunction with the Center's feature exhibit Headed to the White House.*

**TRAVELING TOWN HALL:** Diane Rehm: Do Americans Have a Right to Die?

6 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2016 – New York, NY

*Free*

NPR Host **Diane Rehm** discusses her new book, *On My Own*, about how the death of her husband inspired her to take up a controversial cause: the right to die in America. Program will be held at the Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House in New York.. *With support of the Laurie M. Tisch Illumination Fund.*

**Kevin Seamus Hasson:** How We Came to Be One Nation Under God

12 p.m., Monday, May 23, 2016

*Free*

**Kevin Seamus Hasson**, founder of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, looks at the debates surrounding the relationship between church and state — including the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer in public schools — as described in his new book, *Believers, Thinkers, and Founders*. Includes book sale and signing.

**The Next Supreme Court Confirmation Battle**

6:30 p.m., Thursday, May 26, 2016

*\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$15 public • Free for 1787 Members*

Former federal appeals judge, **Timothy Lewis**, and law professors **Josh Blackman**, **Neil Siegel**, and **David Strauss** assess the Supreme Court confirmation process and the debate over President Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the High Court.

**Jeffrey Rosen:** Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 1, 2016

*Free for Members • \$7 teachers & students • \$15 public*

On the 100th anniversary of Justice Brandeis' confirmation to the Supreme Court, National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen discusses his new book, *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet*, followed by light fare. Joining Rosen to discuss Brandeis's enduring relevance are leading Brandeis scholars **Philippa Strum** and **Melvin Urofsky**. Includes book sale and signing. *Presented in partnership with the National Museum of American Jewish History.*

**Sidney Blumenthal & Sean Wilentz:** The Hidden History of American Politics

12 p.m., Monday, June 6, 2016

*Free*

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Former political aide **Sidney Blumenthal** and prominent historian **Sean Wilentz** explore the role party politics has played in America's enduring struggle against economic inequality, as seen through pivotal figures such as Thomas Paine, Abraham Lincoln, and W.E.B. Du Bois. Includes book sale and signing. *Presented in conjunction with the Center's feature exhibit Headed to the White House.*

**Intelligence Squared U.S. Debate:** Has the President Usurped Congressional Power?

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 8, 2016

*\$20 Members, teachers & students • \$25 public • Free for 1787 Members*

Award-winning NPR show Intelligence Squared U.S. returns to the Center for an exciting live debate. ABC News correspondent **John Donovan** moderates. *Presented in partnership with Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates and sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation. Presented in conjunction with the Center's feature exhibit Headed to the White House.*

**Cass Sunstein:** The World According to Star Wars

6:30 p.m., Monday, June 13, 2016

*\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$15 public • Free for 1787 Members*

Harvard legal scholar and former White House advisor **Cass Sunstein** explores George Lucas's masterpiece as it relates to rebellions, constitutional law, presidential elections, and more. Includes book sale and signing. *Presented in conjunction with the Center's feature exhibit Headed to the White House.*

**Jim Obergefell & Debbie Cenziper:** The Story of *Obergefell v. Hodges*

6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2016

*\$20 1 Member, student or teacher + 1 book • \$30 2 Members, students or teachers + 1 book • \$25 1 public + 1 book • \$35 2 public + 1 book • Free for 1787 Members*

**Jim Obergefell**, lead plaintiff in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and the *Washington Posts'* **Debbie Cenziper**, provide a behind-the-scenes look inside the landmark Supreme Court case that extended the right to marry to same-sex couples. Includes book signing. *Presented in partnership with the William Way LGBT Community Center.*

**What Shakespeare Can Teach Us about Law**

1 p.m., Thursday, June 23, 2016

*Free*

In commemoration of the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, leading Shakespeare director and scholar **Barry Edelstein** and others, delve into the Bard's greatest plays to address the broad question of what Shakespeare can teach us about justice.

**Abortion and the Constitution:** What You Need to Know

6:30 p.m., Monday, June 27, 2016

*\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$15 public • Free for 1787 Members*

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**Teresa Stanton Collett**, professor of law at St. Thomas School of Law, **Clarke Forsythe**, senior counsel for Americans United for Life, and **Mary Ziegler**, legal historian and author of *After Roe*, discuss current and future constitutional debates about abortion, including the future of *Roe v. Wade* and the issues in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, now before the Supreme Court.

### 2016 Annual Supreme Court Review

12 p.m., Wednesday, July 6, 2016

Free • \$35 w/ CLE credit

Distinguished legal experts **Erwin Chemerinsky**, **Frederick Lawrence**, and Slate's **Dahlia Lithwick**, examine the Supreme Court's landmark 2015-16 session, which included significant cases about affirmative action, abortion, religious liberty, and immigration. *Presented in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League.*

### The Presidency of George Washington

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 27, 2016

\$7 Members, teachers & students • \$15 public • Free for 1787 Members

Top presidential historians and contemporary constitutional experts explore Washington's conception of the presidency during the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Guests will have a rare opportunity to view Washington's annotated copy of the Constitution. *Presented in partnership with The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington at Mount Vernon. Presented in conjunction with the Center's feature exhibit Headed to the White House.*

The National Constitution Center's onsite Town Hall programs are generously supported by the Paul S. Levy Programming Fund.

### 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](http://constitutioncenter.org).

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