

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER RELEASES SPEAKERS AND TOPICS
FOR SPRING/SUMMER 2018 AMERICA'S TOWN HALL**

Topics include the 150th anniversary of the 14th Amendment, the constitutional legacies of Presidents Obama and Trump, and the rise and fall of Alexander Hamilton

Guests include *National Review's* Charles Cooke, UVA Law Dean Risa Goluboff, *Slate's* Dahlia Lithwick, Harvard's Laurence Tribe, Princeton's Julian Zelizer, and NAACP Legal Defense Fund's Sherrilyn Ifill

Philadelphia, PA (April 5, 2018) – The National Constitution Center today released the spring/summer 2018 lineup for its popular *America's Town Hall* series of constitutional conversations and debates bringing together the best thinkers on the left, right, and center to explore the most important constitutional issues facing our country.

On April 23, the National Constitution Center, in partnership with the Thurgood Marshall Institute at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, will host a symposium to honor the 150th anniversary of the 14th Amendment. Leading historians and legal scholars from across the ideological spectrum will discuss the 14th Amendment's text, history, and enduring importance. This upcoming season will also explore the past, present, and future of American democracy as well as a range of other timely topics, including the debate over race in American and whether to repeal the 17th Amendment.

Spring/summer 2018 America's Town Hall Programming:

Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes That Shaped a Nation

6:30 p.m., Monday, April 16

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

Guests are invited to a discussion with Hamilton biographers **Jay Cost** and **Tony Williams**, and historian **Carol Berkin** as the Center unveils its new Hamilton exhibit, exploring Hamilton's constitutional clashes with Madison, Jefferson, Adams, and Burr. Guests will have access to *Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes That Shaped a Nation* before the program from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Equal Protection for All: The 14th Amendment at 150

Monday, April 23

The Center celebrates the 150th anniversary of the 14th Amendment's ratification with three daytime panels featuring noted scholars ranging from **Eric Foner** and **Thavolia Glymph** to **Randy Barnett** and **Martha Jones**, as well as an evening keynote. *In partnership with the Thurgood Marshall Institute at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.*

Public Panels

1 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

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

Keynote Conversation

5 – 6 p.m.

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

We the Corporations: The Constitutional Rights of Businesses

12 p.m., Monday, April 30

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

Adam Winkler, author of *We the Corporations: How American Businesses Won Their Civil Rights*, and **Kent Greenfield**, author of *Corporations Are People Too*, discuss the *Citizens United* ruling, corporate rights, and the history of corporations in America. Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

A Survey of Constitutional Debates in the Trump Era

6:30 p.m., Monday, May 7

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

The Trump Presidency has spurred a range of constitutional debates, from the limits of presidential pardon powers to presidential discretion on immigration and trade policy. **Keith Whittington** of Princeton University, **Brianne Gorod** of the Constitutional Accountability Center, **Elizabeth Slattery** from The Heritage Foundation, and leading scholars from across the ideological spectrum discuss the Trump presidency and the Constitution. CLE credit available.

Is Democracy in Crisis?

12 p.m., Friday, May 11

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

Dambisa Mayo, economist and author of *Edge of Chaos: Why Democracy Is Failing to Deliver Economic Growth – and How to Fix It*, is joined by **Sanja Kelly** of Freedom House and other experts from the left and right to debate the future of democracy in the U.S. and abroad. Includes book sale.

A Look Back At the Obama Years

12 p.m., Tuesday, May 22

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

Princeton University's **Julian Zelizer** and **Meg Jacobs** and other leading political historians join reporter **Jonathan Alter** to explore the constitutional issues that shaped the Obama presidency as described in their new book, *The Presidency of Barack Obama: A First Historical Assessment*. Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

Divided Power: The Re-Emergence of Federalism and the 17th Amendment

6 – 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 23

Free for 1787 Society Members • \$20 Members, teachers & students • \$30 Non-Members

The 17th Amendment required the direct election of senators. The Center hosts a blockbuster evening exploring the Founders' vision for the Senate, the story of the 17th Amendment, the debate over whether the amendment represents the death of federalism, and the debate over whether we should repeal the 17th Amendment today. Admission includes a post-program reception. CLE credit available. *Generously sponsored by John Agliano.*

Habeas Corpus: From 17th Century England to Today

12 p.m., Monday, June 4

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

Amanda Tyler of Berkley Law unveils her latest book, *Habeas Corpus in Wartime: From the Tower of London to Guantanamo Bay*, the definitive history of the role habeas corpus has played during war, from its English origins to America's Founding period to today. Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

A Spirit of Inquiry in the Age of Jefferson

6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 7

Free

Andrew O'Shaughnessy, historian and vice president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, explores Thomas Jefferson and education in a wide-ranging discussion. *In partnership with the American Philosophical Society Library and the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello.*

Civil Rights Across the Centuries

6 p.m., Monday, June 11

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

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Guggenheim Fellowship in Constitutional Studies, the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Constitution Center will bring together former fellows — **Holly Brewer**, **Risa Goluboff**, and **Lea VanderVelde** — to discuss the battle over race and equality across American history, from the Founding to Reconstruction to the Civil Rights Revolution. CLE credit available. *In partnership with the Guggenheim Foundation.*

The Power of Impeachment: Its History and Future

12 p.m., Tuesday, June 19

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

Laurence Tribe, leading constitutional scholar and author of *To End a Presidency: The Power of Impeachment*, joins co-author **Joshua Matz** for a deep dive into the history and future of presidential impeachment. Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

2018 Annual Supreme Court Review

12 – 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 10

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

Erwin Chemerinsky, **Frederick Lawrence**, and *Slate's* **Dahlia Lithwick** examine the Supreme Court's 2017-18 term. *In partnership with the Anti-Defamation League.*

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. Tickets for the National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* programs are free or discounted for Members and advance registration is recommended as programs fill quickly. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 215-409-6700 or online at constitutioncenter.org/debate.

The National Constitution Center now offers Continuing Legal Education credit in-person at *America's Town Hall* programs and on-demand online. Programs are available for CLE credit in various states. Visit constitutioncenter.org/CLE for additional information.

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](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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