

**TWEET IT:** [.@ConstitutionCtr](#) hosts [.@nytimes](#) [.@risenc](#) 4/7. Part of Civil Rights at 50 events. <http://bit.ly/1kvOPlv> #NCCTownHall [.@BloomsburyPub](#)

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CONTACTS: Lauren Saul  
 Director of Public Relations  
 215-409-6895  
[lsaul@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:lsaul@constitutioncenter.org)

Sarah Fergus  
 Public Relations Manager  
 215-409-6759  
[sfergus@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:sfergus@constitutioncenter.org)

**BILL OF THE CENTURY  
 NEW YORK TIMES CLAY RISEN TALKS CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AT 50**

Philadelphia, PA (March 7, 2014) – Hailed as a landmark piece of legislation, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. According to *New York Times* op-ed editor **Clay Risen**, the bill is an example of how the American political system succeeded in grappling—however imperfectly—with one of the nation’s most divisive issues. Risen visits the National Constitution Center on **Monday, April 7, 2014 at 12 p.m.** to discuss his new book, *The Bill of the Century: The Epic Battle for the Civil Rights Act* as part of the museum’s 50th anniversary commemoration. Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen will moderate.

Admission to the program is FREE, but reservations are recommended and can be made by calling 215-409-6700 or visiting [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org). A book sale and signing will follow the program.

Touted as “smart and stirring,” by *The New Republic*, [The Bill of the Century](#) provides an in-depth, behind-the-scenes account of the unsung congressional and White House heroes who helped the Civil Rights Act become the law of the land. The narrative explores different sides of the bill that prompted the longest filibuster in the history of the U.S. Senate and features a long list of supporting characters including JFK, Lyndon Johnson, Hubert Humphrey, Martin Luther King Jr., Richard Nixon, and more. Noted author and historian Robert Dallek praises the book saying it is “deeply researched, beautifully written...history scholars and general readers alike will want to read.”

[Clay Risen](#) is an editor at the *New York Times* op-ed section. Before that, he was an assistant editor at *The New Republic* and the founding managing editor of the noted quarterly *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*. His recent freelance work has appeared in such journals as *The Atlantic*, *Smithsonian*, and the *Washington Post*. His first book, *A*

ADD ONE/CLAY RISEN

*Nation on Fire: America in the Wake of the King Assassination* was hailed as “a crucial addition to civil rights history” (*Publishers Weekly*). He is also the author of *American Whiskey, Bourbon and Rye: A Guide to the Nation’s Favorite Spirit*.

The Constitution Center’s Civil Rights anniversary commemoration continues on **Wednesday, May 14, 2014**, with Yale Law School’s **Bruce Ackerman** and Northwestern University School of Law’s **Steven Calabresi** in a conversation about Ackerman’s newest book, *We the People, Volume 3: The Civil Rights Revolution*, the second to last volume of his sweeping interpretation of constitutional history.

#### About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](#) 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](#).

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