

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

525 Arch Street | Independence Mall  
Philadelphia | PA 19106 | T 215 409 6600 | F 215 409 6650  
[www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

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CONTACTS: Ashley Berke  
Director of Public Relations  
215.409.6693  
[aberke@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:aberke@constitutioncenter.org)

Alex Podmaska  
Public Relations Coordinator  
215.409.6895  
[apodmaska@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:apodmaska@constitutioncenter.org)

## **JOYCE LEE MALCOLM AND DAVID A. STRAUSS TO DISCUSS CHICAGO GUN RIGHTS CASE AND THE FUTURE OF GUN RIGHTS IN AMERICA AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

Philadelphia, PA (April 15, 2010) – **Joyce Lee Malcolm**, Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law, and **David A. Strauss**, the Gerald Ratner Distinguished Service Professor of Law at the University of Chicago, will join the National Constitution Center on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss one of the most important and controversial cases before the Supreme Court this term: the Chicago gun-rights case, *McDonald v. Chicago*. Veteran United States Supreme Court reporter **Lyle Denniston** will moderate. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

At issue in *McDonald v. Chicago* is whether the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental constitutional privilege—like freedom of speech, press, and religion—that can be invoked by individuals against the actions of state and local governments, as well as the federal government. As the Court prepares to share its opinion, anticipation is building over the so-called "incorporation doctrine," which has applied most, but not all, guarantees of the federal Bill of Rights to state and local governments.

**Joyce Lee Malcolm**, Professor of Law at George Mason University School of Law, is a historian and constitutional scholar. She is the author of seven books, including *To Keep and Bear Arms: The Origins of an Anglo-American Right* and *Guns and Violence:*

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*The English Experience*. Her work on the Second Amendment and the right to be armed has been widely cited in court opinions and legal literature, including the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 2008 opinion, *District of Columbia v. Heller*. Malcolm's latest book, *Peter's War: A New England Slave Boy and the American Revolution*, has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

**David A. Strauss** is one of the nation's leading constitutional law scholars. He has served as Special Counsel to the United States Senate Judiciary Committee and Assistant Solicitor General of the United States, and argued 18 cases before the United States Supreme Court. Strauss is also an editor of the *Supreme Court Review*.

**Lyle Denniston**, now in his sixth decade as a journalist, has reported on the Supreme Court for more than 50 years. Denniston currently reports for SCOTUSblog, an online clearing house of information about the Supreme Court. He is also the author of *The Reporter and the Law: Techniques of Covering the Court*, and contributed two chapters to *100 Americans Making Constitutional History*.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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