

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT V. CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS: EMINENT DOMAIN POST *KELO* AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

PHILADELPHIA, PA (March 22, 2006) – To discuss an issue with far ranging national as well as personal implications, the National Constitution Center’s Fourth Annual John M. Templeton, Jr. Lecture on Economic Liberties and the Constitution will explore “Eminent Domain Post *Kelo*” with Constitutional experts **Scott Bullock**, **Thomas Merrill** and **Douglas Kmiec**. The lecture will take place on Monday, April 10, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the National Constitution Center’s Kirby Auditorium. The event is free, but reservations are required and can be made at 215.409.6700.

The power of eminent domain has been the driving force in the development of the United States to build its highways, ports, government buildings and public housing. More than any other decision delivered by the Supreme Court during its last term, *Kelo v. New London* stirred strong emotion and renewed focus upon the interpretive methods of the Supreme Court. The decision, which states that a public taking of property under the Fifth Amendment is viable—if found to create new jobs, increase tax and other city revenues, and revitalize a depressed urban area—provoked a storm of controversy and highlighted community disputes throughout the nation so much so that legislation has been introduced in more than half of the states to curb its use. Locally, citizens in Ardmore, PA and other communities have been fighting the use of eminent domain power for an economic development project.

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ADD TWO/TEMPLETON LECTURE

Scott Bullock argued the landmark *Kelo v. City of New London* case before the Supreme Court and has been a senior attorney with the Institute for Justice since its founding in 1991. Bullock has worked with property owners in cities throughout the country in an effort to challenge private-to-private transfers of property, and was a recipient of the top civil rights prize by the Mississippi chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference for his efforts in creating litigation that saved the land and home of a Mississippi family.

Thomas Merrill is the Charles Keller Beekman Professor of Law at the Columbia University School of Law. Professor Merrill testified before the U.S. Judiciary Committee on September 20, 2005 about the *Kelo* case, where he dispelled what he called the “five myths” about the Supreme Court’s decision in *Kelo*. He clerked for Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun and David L. Bazelon on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. From 1987 to 1990, he served as deputy solicitor general in the Department of Justice, where he represented the United States before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Douglas W. Kmiec will moderate the event. He was Dean and St. Thomas More Professor of Law at Catholic University, and, for 19 years, a faculty member at Notre Dame before joining the law faculty at Pepperdine University in 2003, where he is the Caruso Family Chair and Professor of Constitutional Law. Kmiec served Presidents Ronald Regan and George H.W. Bush during 1985-1989 as Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel. Kmiec serves on the executive committee of the National Constitution Center’s Distinguished Scholars Advisory Panel.

Prior to the lecture, star teams from the University of Pennsylvania and Temple University Law Schools will engage in a mock argument mirroring those made before the Supreme Court in the *Kelo vs. the City of New London* case. Kyle Mach and Jeffrey Nestler from the University of Pennsylvania will partner together against Justin Oshana and Marian Braccia from Temple University in the debate, which will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Kirby Auditorium. Separate reservations are required and can be made at 215.409.6700.

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ADD THREE/TEMPLETON LECTURE

The Eminent Domain lecture will mark the fourth annual John M. Templeton, Jr. Lecture on Economic Liberties and the Constitution at the National Constitution Center. Dr. Templeton, the pediatric surgeon and former Director of the Trauma Unit at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, established the John. M. Templeton, Jr. Lecture on Economic Liberties and the Constitution to create a forum to explore in detail the economic liberties provided by the Constitution, and to showcase the best constitutional minds in the nation as they discuss economic liberties in a forum that is open to the public.

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. Opened on July 4, 2003, the Constitution Center is 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 and debates, and is a partner of NPR's "Justice Talking," a program of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. Also, serving as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Benjamin Franklin: In Search of a Better World, a blockbuster exhibition celebrating Franklin's 300th birthday, makes its world premiere at the National Constitution Center from December 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. Created by the Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary, this exhibition is being hosted locally by CBS 3. Tickets for the exhibition, which also include regular museum admission, are \$14 for adults; \$12 for children ages 4-12, seniors, and college students; and \$8.50 for groups of 20 or more. For advance tickets, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.gophila.com/ben.

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