

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CELEBRATE BILL OF RIGHTS DAY AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER OR IN THE CLASSROOM
ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2017**

Enjoy discounted admission and the annual Bill of Rights Day Symposium featuring three back-to-back constitutional conversations

Philadelphia, PA (December 4, 2017) – On Friday, December 15, the National Constitution Center will celebrate the 226th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights with \$5 discounted admission. Featured activities include a Bill of Rights Day museum tour, “Decoding the Document” workshops, and an interactive game show, “Who wants to be a “Bill-ionaire?” for visitors of all ages. Visitors can also view a rare, original copy of the historic Bill of Rights and participate in a Student Town Hall featuring husband-and-wife team Cynthia and Sanford Levinson discussing their book, *Fault Lines in the Constitution*.

The National Constitution Center will also host its annual Bill of Rights Day Symposium featuring three back-to-back constitutional conversations. Topics include the state of the First Amendment today, the history of the Bill of Rights, and James Madison — revolutionary thinker, partisan political strategist, and president. Speakers include constitutional law expert Gerard Magliocca, Harvard professor of law Noah Feldman, Brooklyn Law School professor of law Anita Bernstein, former president of the Newseum Jeffrey Herbst, and director of the Knight First Amendment Institute Jameel Jaffer. *The symposium has been approved for 3.0 credits of CLE in Pennsylvania.*

Admission on Bill of Rights Day includes access to the National Constitution Center’s interactive main exhibit, the signature multimedia, theatrical performance of *Freedom Rising* presented in the Sidney Kimmel Theater, and the iconic *Signers’ Hall*.

On Bill of Rights Day, discounted admission also includes access to the Center’s feature exhibits, including *American Treasures: Documenting the Nation’s Founding*, an intimate look at the rarest early drafts of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights; *John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice*, which explores Marshall’s character, constitutional legacy, and the influential roles he played in the early Republic; and *Constituting Liberty: From the Declaration to the Bill of Rights*, showcasing one of 12 original, surviving copies of the Bill of Rights.

Bill of Rights Day Symposium

The Bill of Rights Day Symposium, which takes place in the National Constitution Center’s F.M. Kirby Auditorium, is included with museum admission and is free for Members. There is a fee of \$100 for Members and \$110 for Non-Members seeking CLE credit. Advanced registration is strongly encouraged for all symposium programs. Guests can call 215-409-6700 or [click here](#) to reserve seats.

Gerard Magliocca: How the Bill of Rights Became the Bill of Rights

10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Constitutional law expert **Gerard Magliocca** tells the untold story of the most celebrated part of the Constitution as described in his book, *The Heart of the Constitution*. We are accustomed to seeing the Bill of Rights at the end of the Constitution, but Madison wanted to put them in the middle of the document. Why was his plan rejected and what impact did that have on constitutional law? Today we also venerate the first 10 amendments as the Bill of Rights, but many Supreme Court opinions say that only the first eight or first nine amendments. Why was that and why did that change?

Noah Feldman: The Three Lives of James Madison

11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Harvard professor of law **Noah Feldman** unveils *The Three Lives of James Madison* — a sweeping reexamination of the Founding Father who transformed the U.S. in each of his political “lives” — as a revolutionary thinker, as a partisan political strategist, and as a president. Feldman explores how his collaborations, struggles, and contradictions define the U.S. to this day.

Featured Discussion: The State of the First Amendment

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Anita Bernstein, professor of law at Brooklyn Law School, **Jeffrey Herbst**, former president of the Newseum, and **Jameel Jaffer**, director of the Knight First Amendment Institute, join Constitution Center president and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen** for a special Bill of Rights Day discussion on the state of the First Amendment today.

Bill of Rights Day Museum Programs

Members-only Bill of Rights Day Breakfast

9 a.m., *Bogle Chairman’s Room*

Complimentary for 1787 Society Members • \$20 for Members

National Constitution Center Members can celebrate Bill of Rights Day at the Center with a breakfast and constitutional conversation featuring Center president and CEO Jeffrey Rosen and constitutional law expert Gerard Magliocca. Advanced registration is required. Guests can call 215-409-6785 or [click here](#) to register.

Preamble Scramble and Amendment Match-Up

All Day, *Grand Hall Lobby*

Visitors can make arts and craft projects and solve puzzles to place the segments of the Constitution’s preamble in the correct order and match up the right freedoms with the correct amendments.

Decoding the Document: The Bill of Rights

All Day, *George H.W. Bush Gallery*

Visitors can view up-close a rare, original copy of the Bill of Rights, and learn more about its fascinating history—like what happened to the original First and Second Amendments.

Bill of Rights Day Museum Tour

11 a.m., *Meet in Signers’ Hall*

Visitors can experience a special Bill of Rights tour of the National Constitution Center’s signature exhibits, including *Signers’ Hall* and *The Story of We the People* exhibit, and learn about some of the most famous Bill of Rights-related court cases.

Bill of Rights Show

12 p.m., *Main Exhibit*

Who wants to be a “Bill-ionaire?” In the Center’s fast-paced game show, visitors face off in a fun competition testing their Bill of Rights knowledge while an engaging host reveals the real deal about our amendments and freedoms.

Student Town Hall: Fault Lines in the Constitution

1 p.m., *Bank of America Family Theater*

Husband-and-wife team Cynthia and Sanford Levinson discuss their book, *Fault Lines in the Constitution*. This town hall discussion will take students back to the creation of this historic document and explore how contemporary problems were first introduced. This program is free with admission but registration is recommended. Call groups sales at 215-409-6800 to reserve seats.

Educational Resources

Celebrate the Bill of Rights in the classroom all month long with educational resources from the National Constitution Center.

Interactive Constitution

The *Interactive Constitution*, a FREE online tool—which is now available as an app—features essays on each of the Bill of Rights amendments, written by top constitutional experts from across the political spectrum.

The National Constitution Center also offers free, classroom-ready lesson plans, designed to help educators use the *Interactive Constitution* with their students:

- [The Interactive Constitution and the Second Amendment](#)
- [The Interactive Constitution and the Fourth Amendment](#)
- [The Interactive Constitution and the Eighth Amendment](#)

Constitution Hall Pass Video Lessons

This month, commemorate Bill of Rights Day with the Center’s [Constitution Hall Pass Video Lesson Series](#).

- The [original “Bill of Rights” video](#) discusses the origins of the historic document.
- The [“Bill of Rights: Second Edition” episode](#) explores the first 10 amendments in more detail.
- The [“Classroom Discussion Series”](#) looks at how the Bill of Rights applies in modern-day scenarios, and helps teachers spark conversations in their classrooms.

Bill of Rights Day Live Chat

Teachers and students across the country can chat live with the Center’s education staff on Bill of Rights Day, Friday, December 15, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. Visit constitutioncenter.org/learn to learn more.

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](#) 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.

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