

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Merissa Blum, 215-409-6645  
[mblum@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:mblum@constitutioncenter.org)

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER'S ANNOUNCES CONSTITUTION DAY SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS  
FOR MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

*The National Constitution Center will offer free admission and programming on Constitution Day*

Philadelphia, PA (September 6, 2018) – Today, the National Constitution Center announced speakers and programs for its annual Constitution Day celebration on Monday, September 17. This year, the Center will welcome over 4,000 students as it commemorates the 231st anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

Highlights of the Center's 2018 Constitution Day celebration include Town Hall programs with author **Linda Monk** on the Bill of Rights and with Judge **Jeffrey S. Sutton** on the importance of state courts and state constitutions. Other special programs include student conversations with federal judges and a Naturalization Ceremony with a keynote address by Philadelphia Mayor **Jim Kenney**.

Family-friendly programs include historic character meet and greets, 18th century games, calligraphy demonstrations, and arts and craft activities. Visitors can also step inside an actual voting booth to cast a vote for their favorite figure from constitutional history.

Admission and all activities, including Town Hall programs and feature exhibits, are free courtesy of the Schwab Charitable Fund, made possible by the generosity of the Present Progressive Fund.

The National Constitution Center will also offer complimentary online resources leading up to and including Constitution Day. The Center's dedicated [Constitution Day website](#) provides educators with a variety of tools to teach the Constitution in the classroom. This Constitution Day, the Center is also piloting the first **Constitutional Exchanges for Classrooms** where over 500 high school students will have the opportunity to engage in virtual constitutional conversations with their peers from around the country. More information on the exchanges is available [here](#).

**Full Programming List**

**Preamble Challenge and Flag Raising Ceremony**

8:30 a.m., *Front Lawn*

Visitors can join the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution for a flag raising ceremony and a live performance of the Star-Spangled Banner. National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen** will conclude the ceremony by leading students in a rousing reading of the Preamble of the Constitution.

**Judge Chats: The Courts in the Community**

10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m., 12:30 p.m., *Bank of America Theater* (\*This program is open to student groups, and advanced reservations are required. Speak to a Group Sales Representative at 215-409-6800.)

Students and teachers engage with federal judges about the interpretation of law and about how the Constitution affects everyday life.

### **Kids Town Hall: Meet the Presidents**

10 a.m., 11 a.m., *Feature Exhibit Gallery* (\*This program is open to student groups, and advanced reservations are required. Speak to a Group Sales Representative at 215-409-6800.)

Visitors can participate in a special Kids Town Hall with some very famous guests — Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt — who will discuss what Constitution Day means to them.

### **Hamilton’s Early Life**

10 a.m., 12:30 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook*

In conjunction with the Center’s newest feature exhibit, *Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes That Shaped a Nation*, this interactive lobby show introduces visitors to the story of Alexander Hamilton’s early life. Visitors will learn about his experience growing up in the Caribbean and his journey to the United States, his struggle to obtain an education, and his time as a Revolutionary soldier at the right hand of George Washington.

### **Naturalization Ceremony**

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., *F.M. Kirby Auditorium* (\*Seating is limited, preference given to families of new citizens)

On Constitution Day, 50 immigrants from across the globe will take the Oath of Allegiance to officially become citizens of the United States. The Honorable **John R. Padova**, Senior U.S. District Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, will preside over the ceremony and Mayor of Philadelphia **Jim Kenney** will deliver remarks as part of the city’s Welcoming Week events. All of the new citizens will be given lifetime memberships to the National Constitution Center.

### **Pass the Citizenship Test Show**

10:30 a.m., 1 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook*

Visitors learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and gain insight into our country and the freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.

### **Separation of Powers Show**

11 a.m., 1:30 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook*

This educational tug-of-war game between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches teaches visitors about the system of checks and balances inherent in the U.S. Constitution.

### **Bill of Rights Show**

11:30 a.m., 2 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook*

Who wants to be a “Bill”-ionaire? In this fast-paced game show, visitors face off in competition, testing their Bill of Rights knowledge while the Center’s education staff reveals the history of our nation’s amendments and freedoms.

### **The Constitution’s Birthday Celebration**

12 p.m., *Grand Hall Overlook*

Visitors take part in a birthday celebration, complete with cake, to honor the anniversary of the Constitution's signing. Includes appearances by Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

### **Student Town Hall with Linda Monk**

12:30 p.m., F.M. Kirby Auditorium (*\*This program is open to student groups, and advanced reservations are required. Speak to a Group Sales Representative at 215-409-6800.*)

Constitutional scholar, journalist, and nationally award-winning author **Linda Monk** discusses her new book, *The Bill of Rights: A User's Guide*. The book explores the history of the first 10 amendments to the Constitution and examines the 14th Amendment, which guaranteed equal protection to all persons. Q&A with students to follow the presentation.

### **Why State Constitutions Matter**

3:30 p.m., F.M. Kirby Auditorium

Judge **Jeffrey S. Sutton** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and author of the new book *51 Imperfect Solutions: States and the Making of American Constitutional Law*, explores four constitutional debates — school funding, the exclusionary rule, eugenics, and mandatory flag salutes — to shed light on the importance of state courts and state constitutions in protecting liberty. Includes book sale.

###

### **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).