

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER RELEASES SPEAKERS AND TOPICS  
FOR WINTER 2018 AMERICA'S TOWN HALL**

**Guests include Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, former Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Yale Law School Dean Heather Gerken, and leading historians Jon Meacham and Joseph Ellis**

**Topics include the constitutional legacy of the late Justice Antonin Scalia, a celebration of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's 25 years on the Court, and the contested history of the Second Amendment**

Philadelphia, PA (January 10, 2018) – The National Constitution Center today released the winter 2018 lineup for its popular *America's Town Hall* series of constitutional conversations and debates bringing together the best thinkers on the left, right, and center to explore the most important constitutional issues facing our country.

On February 12, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be in conversation with National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen for the University of Pennsylvania Law School's Owen J. Roberts Lecture in Constitutional Law in celebration of Justice Ginsburg's 25 years on the Supreme Court. On March 20, Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen will launch his newest book, a biography of William Howard Taft. The book argues that Taft was our most judicial president and presidential chief justice. Rosen will be interviewed by one of America's leading jurists (and a fellow Taft enthusiast), Judge Douglas Ginsburg of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. The winter season will also feature visits by leading historians Jon Meacham and Joseph Ellis.

The National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* series features distinguished leaders, scholars, authors, and journalists who speak on the most significant constitutional topics of our time. Tickets for the National Constitution Center's *America's Town Hall* programs are free or discounted for Members and advance registration is recommended as programs fill quickly. Tickets can be purchased by phone at 215-409-6700 or online at [constitutioncenter.org/debate](http://constitutioncenter.org/debate).

New this year, the National Constitution Center now offers Continuing Legal Education credit in-person at *America's Town Hall* programs and on-demand online. Programs are available for CLE credit in various states. Visit [constitutioncenter.org/CLE](http://constitutioncenter.org/CLE) for additional information.

**Winter 2018 America's Town Hall Programming:**

**Revisiting the Founding Era**

6 p.m., Wednesday, January 10

*Free*

Historians **Carol Berkin** and **Denver Brunzman**, community leader **Farah Jimenez**, and Constitutional Sources Project's Executive Director **Julie Silverbrook**, discuss priceless documents from the Founding era, highlight the enduring importance of America's Founding, and explore how Founding era documents and debates can help guide conversations that resonate today within communities often left

out of the Founding narrative, including minorities, women, and others. *In partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History as a part of the new National Endowment for the Humanities funded initiative, Revisiting the Founding Era.* CLE credit available.

**For Debate:** Can a Baker Refuse to Create a Cake for a Same-Sex Wedding?

6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 25

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

The National Constitution Center hosts a debate on one of the most-watched Supreme Court cases this term – *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* – involving free speech, religious liberty, and equal rights. Experts include, **Stephanie Barclay** of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, **Paula Greisen**, one of the attorneys representing the same-sex couple at center of the case, and **Brendan O’Niell**, editor of *Spiked Online*. *In partnership with spiked.* CLE credit available.

**Mayor Michael Nutter:** My Life in Public Service

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 31

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

Two-term Philadelphia Mayor **Michael Nutter**, author of *Mayor: The Best Job in Politics*, shares anecdotes and insights from his time in office about the challenges and rewards of a life in public service. Includes book sale.

**Armed in America:** A History of Gun Rights from Colonial Militias to Concealed Carry

12 p.m., Monday, February 5

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

Historian **Patrick Charles** joins legal scholar **Brannon Denning** for a sweeping historical discussion and debate about how the right to bear arms has been interpreted from America’s Founding to today. Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

**Justice Antonin Scalia:** Life and Legacy

6-7:45 p.m., Wednesday, February 7

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

The Center commemorates the constitutional legacy of the late Justice Antonin Scalia two years after his death. **Edward Whelan**, leading Supreme Court commentator and editor of *Scalia Speaks*, will present Justice Scalia’s opinions in his own words. A conversation with **Rick Hasen**, author of *The Justice of Contradiction*, and **Kannon Shanmugam**, leading Supreme Court advocate and former Scalia law clerk, will follow. Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

**A Conversation with Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

6 p.m., Monday, February 12

*Open to 1787 Society Members only. Tickets are limited and will be available on January 11*

Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** joins National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen** for a wide-ranging conversation in celebration of the 25th anniversary of her appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. *In partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Law School as the Owen J. Roberts Memorial Lecture in Constitutional Law.*

**Dissent:** The History of an American Idea

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 21

*\$30 with Membership*

**Ralph Young**, Temple University history professor, explores the key role dissent has played in shaping the U.S. — from colonial days to the present. Admission includes one drink ticket, light fare, a copy of Young's book *Dissent*, and a book signing.

### **How the Right and Left Can Unite Around Federalism**

6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 1

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

Yale Law School dean and constitutional law scholar **Heather Gerken** explores how federalism can become a powerful bi-partisan tool and a source for compromise when searching for a workable approach to some of today's most contentious policy issues, including policing, health care, and immigration, among others. *In partnership with Yale Law School*. CLE credit available.

### **Renewing the Founders' Promise**

8-9:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15

*Free*

America's leading historians, including **Joseph Ellis** and **Jon Meacham**, will join Issue One co-founder and CEO **Nick Penniman**, for an important discussion about the Founders' vision for American democracy, our shared national values, and how to restore the Founders' vision in our own time. *In partnership with Issue One*. CLE credit available.

### **William Howard Taft and the Constitution**

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 20

*Free for 1787 Society Members • \$10 Members, teachers & students • \$18 Non-Members*

National Constitution Center President and CEO **Jeffrey Rosen** argues that William Howard Taft was our most judicial president and presidential chief justice, and explores Taft's crucial role in shaping how America balances populism with the rule of law. Rosen will be interviewed by Judge **Douglas Ginsburg**, who calls Taft "the most under-appreciated constitutional figure since George Mason." Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

### **The Case for Big Government**

12 p.m., Wednesday, March 21

*Free for Members • \$5 Teachers & students • \$8 Non-Members*

**Jon Michaels**, law professor and author of *Constitutional Coup: Privatization's Threat to the American Republic*, presents a case for the federal administrative state that will engage its defenders and critics alike. Includes book sale. CLE credit available.

The National Constitution Center's onsite Town Hall programs are generously supported by the Paul S. Levy Programming Fund.

### **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](http://constitutioncenter.org).

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