

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY DECIDE: SHOULD A YEAR OF NATIONAL SERVICE BE REQUIRED FOR ALL AMERICANS?

### *The Exchange at the National Constitution Center Features Hot Button Issues and Respectful Deliberation*

Philadelphia, PA (February 26, 2010) – Students from schools across the country will discuss whether or not a year of service should be required for all Americans, during ***The Exchange*** at the National Constitution Center on Thursday, March 18, 2010 from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. EST. **SuChin Pak**, of “G Word” on the Planet Green Network, will host.

*The Exchange* engages high school students in deliberation about current constitutional issues in a national videoconference format that promotes mutual respect. During this installment of *The Exchange*, students will examine various perspectives on required national service, and will discuss the issue in relation to constitutional values. Scholarly advisor **Kermit Roosevelt**, Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the great-great-grandson of President Theodore Roosevelt, will help students understand how the Constitution shapes the national-service debate.

Students will take part in the deliberation both at the Center and via videoconference. Participating schools include:

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- Abington Friends School Jenkintown, PA
- Abington High School Abington, PA
- Ballard High School Louisville, KY\*
- MaST Community Charter School Philadelphia, PA
- Menifee County High School Frenchburg, KY\*
- Perkiomen Valley High School Collegeville, PA\*
- Shamokin Jr./Sr. High School Ranshaw, PA
- Springfield High School Springfield, PA\*
- St. Agnes Academy Memphis, TN\*

\* Denotes school participating via Internet2

Any school in the country can view a live broadcast of the event at [www.constitutioncenter.org/exchange](http://www.constitutioncenter.org/exchange), where curricular material to support classroom discussion of the topic is also available.

Prior to *The Exchange*, participating schools will receive a curriculum poster developed by the education staff at the Center to encourage student examination and evaluation of compulsory national service from a variety of perspectives. The front side of the poster is designed to initiate the conversation with a Town Hall Wall, a format pioneered at the Center and used in its main exhibition, which presents the fundamentals of an issue and various options for its resolution. The opposite side of the poster, created for teachers, displays the curriculum, including lesson plans and student handouts.

**SuChin Pak** is the host of "G Word," a daily news series about innovation in the environmental space, on the Planet Green Network. Prior to joining the Planet Green Network, Pak served as an MTV News correspondent. While part of the MTV news team, she co-hosted MTV's pre-Grammy show and covered the MTV Video Music Awards, the MTV Movie Awards, and the Sundance Film Festival. Pak was also an integral part of MTV's 2004 *Choose or Lose* Campaign, which sought to encourage young people to vote. In addition, she covered the September 11<sup>th</sup> tragedy, contributing segments about young volunteers and Muslim-American women. In 2005, Pak traveled to Thailand to cover the aftermath of the tsunami. Following Hurricane Katrina, she

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visited Baton Rouge to report on college students at Louisiana State University who aided rescue and recovery efforts. Born in Korea, Pak and her family moved to the Bay Area when she was five years old. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, with a degree in political science.

The scholarly advisor for this installment of *The Exchange* is **Kermit Roosevelt**, who works in a diverse range of fields focusing on constitutional law and conflict of laws. His latest book, *The Myth of Judicial Activism: Making Sense of Supreme Court Decisions*, sets out standards by which citizens can determine whether the Supreme Court is abusing its authority. He is also the author of *In the Shadow of the Law*, and has published in the *Virginia Law Review*, the *Michigan Law Review*, and the *Columbia Law Review*, among other scholarly journals.

*The Exchange* is made possible with generous support from the Annenberg Foundation and Scholastic Inc. Previous *Exchange* programs have focused on topics such as religious expression in schools, immigration, and the balance of school safety and student constitutional rights. During the most recent *Exchange* program, students discussed the issue of same-sex marriage in the United States. For more information, please contact Jason Allen at 215.409.6644 or [jallen@constitutioncenter.org](mailto:jallen@constitutioncenter.org).

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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