

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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AUTHOR DAVID STEWART DISCUSSES THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL OF ANDREW JOHNSON AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (April 21, 2009) – With the assassination of Abraham Lincoln so soon after the conclusion of the Civil War, the United States was left in turmoil. The freedom that so many had fought for seemed in danger of being erased when Andrew Johnson took office. Acclaimed author **David O. Stewart** will join the National Constitution Center on Monday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the impeachment trial of President Johnson, which became central to the struggle over how to reunite a nation after four years of war. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

In his most recent book, *Impeached: The Trial of President Andrew Johnson and the Fight for Lincoln's Legacy*, David Stewart challenges the traditional account of the events surrounding Johnson's impeachment trial. Rather than seeing Johnson as Abraham Lincoln's political heir, Stewart explains how the Tennessean squandered Lincoln's political legacy of equality and fairness and helped force the freed slaves into a brutal form of agricultural peonage across the South.

David O. Stewart has practiced law in Washington, D.C. for more than a quarter of a century. He has argued appeals all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and was law clerk to Justice Lewis Powell of the Supreme Court. He is the author of the critically acclaimed book, *The Summer of 1787*.

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ADD ONE/ANDREW JOHNSON

Elizabeth R. Varon will moderate the program. Varon is Professor of History at Temple University and Associate Director of the Center for the Humanities at Temple. A specialist in the Civil War era and nineteenth-century South, she is the author of *We Mean to be Counted: White Women and Politics in Antebellum Virginia* and *Southern Lady, Yankee Spy: The True Story of Elizabeth Van Lew, A Union Agent in the Heart of the Confederacy*. Her newest book is *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789-1859*.

A book sale and signing will follow the program, courtesy of Joseph Fox Bookshop.

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. Also, 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 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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