

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## A SUPREME COURT PREVIEW AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (September 9, 2009) – As the Supreme Court enters its new term with fresh controversy and a fresh face – Sonia Sotomayor, the first Hispanic Justice and the third woman to sit on the Court – attorney and former Solicitor General **Paul D. Clement**, veteran Supreme Court reporter **Lyle Denniston**, and President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund **John Payton** will join the National Constitution Center on Monday, September 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. for a discussion about the changing court and the major cases already awaiting its attention when it reassembles on the first Monday in October. Admission is \$9 for members, \$15 for non-members, and \$7 for students and teachers. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Already, the Court has agreed to resolve nearly four-dozen significant legal disputes. Cases on the docket so far include the future of campaign finance regulation, the constitutionality of life prison terms for juveniles who commit crimes, the authority of government to accept religious monuments in public parks, an examination of police officers' duty to provide "Miranda warnings" to suspects, and a test of the government's power to monitor business scandals such as the one that brought down Enron Corporation.

Paul D. Clement is a partner at King & Spalding. Clement served as the 43rd Solicitor General of the United States and his more than seven years of service in the Office of Solicitor General is the longest period of continuous service in the Office by a Solicitor General since the Nineteenth Century. He has argued 49 cases before the United States Supreme Court, including *Rumsfeld v. Padilla*. Clement clerked for Judge

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## ADD ONE/SUPREME COURT PREVIEW

Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, and for Associate Justice Antonin Scalia of the U.S. Supreme Court. After his clerkships, he went on to serve as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution, Federalism, and Property Rights.

Lyle Denniston, now in his 61<sup>st</sup> year as a journalist, has reported on the Supreme Court for 51 years, covering one fourth of the Justices ever to sit on the Supreme Court bench. Denniston is currently covering the Court for SCOTUSblog, an online clearing house of information about the Supreme Court's work. He is also the author of *The Reporter and The Law: Techniques of Covering the Courts* and two chapters in *100 Americans Making Constitutional History*.

John Payton is President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund. While a partner at the Washington firm of Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale and Dorr, he was the lead counsel for the University of Michigan in successfully defending before the Supreme Court the use of race in the admissions process at its undergraduate college and law school. He is a member of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates, and a former Corporation Counsel of the District of Columbia. Payton has taught at Harvard Law School, the Georgetown Law Center, and Howard University Law School. He is a member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. In addition, he is a Master in the Edward Coke Appellate Inn of Court.

This program is part of the *Knight Constitutional Conversation Series*, which has been generously underwritten by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes excellence in journalism worldwide and invests in the vitality of the U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Knight Foundation focuses on projects with the potential to create transformational change. For more, visit [www.knightfoundation.org](http://www.knightfoundation.org).

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## ADD TWO/SUPREME COURT PREVIEW

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](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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