

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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## **MODERN-DAY SLAVERY CONFRONTED AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER** *As Part of the Legacy of 1808 Series*

Philadelphia, PA (May 20, 2008) – Many people likely assume that slavery is a thing of the past. But the startling truth is that there are more slaves in the world today than ever before – various estimates place the global number around 27 million, with as many as 50,000 working within U.S. borders alone. On Monday, June 9, 2008 at 6:30 p.m., the National Constitution Center will present a frank conversation about the existence of modern-day slavery with special guests **Theodore Shaw**, former Director-Counsel and President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund and Visiting Scholar at the Constitution Center, and journalist **E. Benjamin Skinner**, author of the book, *A Crime So Monstrous: Face-to-Face with Modern-Day Slavery*. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Theodore M. Shaw is one of the nation's leading voices in civil rights, having traveled and lectured extensively on civil rights and human rights in Europe, South Africa, South America, and Japan. From 2004 to 2008, Shaw served as Director-Counsel and President of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. He currently serves on the Legal Advisory Network of the European Roma Rights Council, based in Budapest, Hungary. He also serves as Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Law School, as the second appointee to the Phyllis Beck Chair at Temple Law School, and as the 2008 Visiting Scholar at the Constitution Center.

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## ADD ONE/MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

E. Benjamin Skinner has reported on a wide range of topics from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East for such publications as *Newsweek International* and *Travel + Leisure*. In 2003, as a journalist on assignment for *Newsweek International* in Sudan, he met his first survivor of slavery. Going undercover when necessary, Skinner infiltrated trafficking networks and slave quarries, urban child markets, and illegal brothels. In the process, he became the first person in history to observe the sale of human beings on four continents. *A Crime So Monstrous* is Skinner's first book, and a quarter of the royalties from its sale will go to Free the Slaves, the American wing of Anti-Slavery International, the world's oldest human rights organization.

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

This program is part of *The Legacy of 1808* speaker series, a year long dialogue at the National Constitution Center with local and national experts about the history of the slave trade and its contemporary relevance. *The Legacy of 1808* explores issues of race, segregation, suffrage, and individual rights in forums intended for people of all ages and backgrounds, revealing how the issue of slavery cast a dark shadow over the nation's founding and influenced the evolution of American culture and society.

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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