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THE SUPREME COURT AND POPULAR OPINION: NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS CONVERSATION ON “THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE”

Philadelphia, PA (January 8, 2010) – The National Constitution Center, in partnership with the University of Pennsylvania Law School, will host a conversation about how the Supreme Court’s decisions relate to American popular opinion on Friday, January 29, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. Admission is free, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 215.409.6700.

Legal experts **Lee Epstein**, **Barry Friedman**, and **Jeffrey Rosen** will discuss the thesis of Friedman’s new book, *The Will of the People*, which states that Supreme Court Justices and the people are partners in a “marriage” that sidesteps the two elected branches. Friedman argues that the justices and the people “come into line with one another over time.”

Lee Epstein is the Henry Wade Rogers Professor at Northwestern University, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Academy of Political and Social Science. In addition to serving as a law professor, she is a leading political scientist who studies the Supreme Court. A recipient of ten grants from the National Science Foundation for her work on law and legal institutions, Epstein has also authored, co-authored, or edited over 100 articles and essays, as well as 14 books, including the *Constitutional Law for a Changing America* series, *The Supreme Court Compendium*, *The Choices Justices Make*, and *Advice and Consent: The Politics of Judicial Appointments*.

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Barry Friedman is the Vice Dean and Jacob D. Fuchsberg Professor of Law at New York University School of Law. He has taught, written and litigated about the Constitution for 25 years. He is one of the country's leading authorities on the federal courts and judicial behavior and has published over 50 academic articles in some of the country's leading journals. Along with Professor Steven Burbank, he co-edited *Judicial Independence: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. He also contributes regularly to the media, in publications such as *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The American Lawyer*, and *Forbes.com*, among others. *The Will of the People* is Friedman's first book.

Jeffrey Rosen is a professor of law at The George Washington University and the legal affairs editor of *The New Republic*. His most recent book is *The Supreme Court: The Personalities and Rivalries that Defined America*. He is also the author of *The Most Democratic Branch*, *The Naked Crowd*, and *The Unwanted Gaze*. Rosen's essays and commentaries have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, on National Public Radio, and in *The New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer.

Veteran Supreme Court watcher and SCOTUSblog correspondent **Lyle Denniston** will moderate the program. Denniston, now in his 61st year as a journalist, has reported on the Supreme Court for 51 years and covered one fourth of the Justices ever to sit on the Supreme Court bench. Denniston is currently covering the Court for SCOTUSblog, an online clearinghouse of information about the Supreme Court's work. He is the author of *The Reporter and The Law: Techniques of Covering the Courts*.

This program is part of a larger symposium at the University of Pennsylvania Law School titled "The Judiciary and the Popular Will," on January 29 and 30, 2010. The symposium, sponsored by the *Journal of Constitutional Law*, will be held at the Levy Conference Center at the law school, and is open to the public. For more information, contact Priya Narasimhan at snarasimhan@law.upenn.edu or visit www.pennjcl.com.

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

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ADD TWO/SUPREME COURT AND THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE

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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