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Summer Research Seminar in Washington, D.C. June 8-14, 2008



The Institute for Constitutional Studies is pleased to announce its **ninth annual residential summer research seminar** for advanced graduate students and junior faculty. This year's topic is "The Influence of Religion on Constitutional Thought."

INSTRUCTORS

Mark Noll, Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, and **Judge Michael McConnell**, United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, will lead the seminar.

Professor Noll is Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. He has taught a wide variety of courses in the history of Christianity at Notre Dame and earlier at Wheaton College. His recent books include *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln* (2002); *The Rise of Evangelicalism: The Age of Edwards, Whitefield and the Wesleys* (2003); *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis* (2006); and *Race, Religion, and Reform: Political Upheaval from Nat Turner to George W. Bush* (2008). **Judge McConnell** has taught constitutional law and constitutional history at the University of Chicago, the University of Utah, Harvard Law School, Stanford Law School, and Drake University Law School, with particular emphasis on the First Amendment and religion. He is co-editor of *Christian Perspectives on Legal Thought* (2001) and *Religion and the Constitution (Casebook)* (2002, 2006), and the author of numerous articles on the history and interpretation of free exercise and disestablishment of religion.

PROGRAM CONTENT

Religious thinking has influenced many of the most fundamental features of American constitutional thought. This seminar will explore some of those developments, with focused discussion of selected readings in the morning sessions and paper presentations in the afternoon. Among the topics that may be considered are: (1) Puritan and Reformed Protestant contributions to constitutionalism, republicanism, and revolution; (2) the colonial Great Awakening (Jonathan Edwards) and ideals of society; (3) William Penn and Quaker ideas of political order; (4) Anglicanism, constitutional monarchy, and Loyalist protest;

(5) Presbyterian ecclesiology (e.g., John Witherspoon) and ideas of federalism and representation; (6) Baptist theology (including the rejection of infant baptism, e.g., Isaac Backus) and rising individualism and rejection of religious establishment; (7) Masonic ideas (and opposition to them) in the formation of early republican ideology; (8) varying religious appropriations of the Enlightenment; (9) the Second Great Awakening and the rise of voluntarism and civil society; (10) the religious roots of abolitionism and proslavery thought; (11) Lincoln's theology; (12) women as leaders in church and state; and (13) the nineteenth-century Roman Catholic critique (e.g., Orestes Brownson) of liberalism. Participants are not limited to these topics, but may prepare and present papers ranging across the modern history of constitutional democracy, based on any significant connection between religious and constitutional thought, broadly construed.

Participants will be required to identify their topics or research interests in advance and to provide a short bibliography of materials for seminar members to consult, and must also commit to reading a limited amount of common material in advance. Seminar leaders will guide discussions to include the participants' particular interests, share their own research, and organize activities that take advantage of the opportunities in the Washington area for research on these subjects. Time outside of the scheduled meetings will be reserved for special events and individual consultation with the seminar leaders.

LOGISTICS

The seminar will meet in Washington, D.C., from **June 8 to June 14, 2008**. The Institute for Constitutional Studies will reimburse participants for their travel expenses (up to \$350), provide shared accommodation in residence halls at George Washington University (single accommodations can be obtained for a supplement of \$50 per night), and offer a modest stipend to cover food and additional expenses. Seminar enrollment is limited to fifteen participants.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants for the seminar should send a copy of their curriculum vitae, a brief description (three to five pages) of the research project to be pursued during the seminar, and a short statement on how this seminar will be useful to them in their research, teaching, and/or professional development. Materials will be accepted until **April 21, 2008**, and only by email at icsgw@law.gwu.edu. Successful applicants will be notified soon thereafter.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Maeva Marcus at (202) 994-6562 or Maeve Devoy at (202) 994-2448, or send an email to icsgw@law.gwu.edu.

ABOUT ICS:

The Institute for Constitutional Studies is the nation's premier university-based institute dedicated to ensuring that future generations of Americans understand the substance and historical development of the U.S. Constitution. Located at the George Washington University and associated with the GWU Law School, ICS is co-sponsored by the American Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, American Political Science Association, and Association of American Law Schools. ICS prepares younger scholars and college instructors to convey to their readers and students the important role the Constitution has played in shaping American society. ICS also provides a national forum for the preparation and dissemination of humanistic, interdisciplinary scholarship on American constitutional history.



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For more details, visit the ICS website at <http://www.law.gwu.edu/ics>.