The Institute of Bill of Rights Law

Institute of Bill of Rights Law at the William & Mary Law School

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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

 Begun and held at the City of New York, on

Wednesday the Fourth of March, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine.

THE United States Congress,

In Assembly, July 2, 1789.

Resolved, that the following Articles be proposed to the legislature of every state, and by the said legislature, the said Articles written and proposed as part of the Constitution.

Resolved, that the Articles so written and proposed shall be submitted to the legislatures of the several states for the ratification thereof:

ARTICLES

Article the first. A Declaration of Rights.

The rights of the people shall be inviolable.

The enumeration of certain rights shall not be construed to be a denial of other rights.

Article the second. An equal division of 权利.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.

Article the third. Education and Libraries.

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.

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THE INSTITUTE OF BILL OF RIGHTS LAW

At the Marshall-Wythe School of Law
The College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia
THE INSTITUTE OF BILL OF RIGHTS LAW AT THE MARSHALL-WYTHE SCHOOL OF LAW
The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia

The Institute of Bill of Rights Law seeks to integrate the study of legal issues, particularly those of human rights, social justice and governance, with the study of the humanities and public policy. It functions as a forum for grilling and discussing matters of law and policy, as a vehicle for public, student and professional education on constitutional topics, as a device for generating innovative approaches to legal questions, and as a catalyst for creating legal thought. The Institute serves the academic, legal and journalistic communities in a manner consistent with its ties to a professional school and an institution of higher education. It undertakes no lobbying and adopts no partisan political stance. As an academic foundation, it is committed to quality research and education on constitutional liberties.

The Institute derived its initial funding from the Lee Memorial Trust Fund, created in a bequest from Laura Lee of Washington, D.C., in memory of her parents, Alfred Wilson Lee and Mary E. Lee. Mr. Lee was founder and president of Lee Enterprises, Inc., a communications corporation consisting of newspapers, electronic media and related entities, headquartered in Des Moines, Iowa. The Institute receives both public and private funds. In founding it in 1982 at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, the prominence of Williamsburg and the College of William and Mary in the legal education of the early leaders of the United States was recognized.

William and Mary, chartered in 1693, is one of the oldest established institutions of higher education in the United States. It was named after the English monarchs to whom the Parliament presented the English Bill of Rights in 1689. The University of Virginia, chartered in 1819, was the first major university established in the United States subsequent to the Revolution and it was founded by Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall. Of its four legal schools, the University of Virginia School of Law, the University of Denver College of Law and the University of Colorado Law School, the Marshall-Wythe School of Law was named for two of Virginia's most prominent legal figures: John Marshall and George Wythe. Marshall was the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court most responsible for forging the authority of the Constitution, and Wythe held the first chair of law in America at the College of William and Mary from 1699 to 1770.

Top left: The law school's namesake, a tradition taking place for students, is often the site of planning sessions for actions of the Institute's Student Division.

Center: Attending the October 1989 program "Fundamental Religious and the Secular State: The Experience in America and Israel" are Carol Egglishaw, Yve Anne Karrus, and Edel Nisberg.

Below: Program participant Jonathan Kahan, West Bank lawyer, civil rights activist, founder of Law in the Service of Man and program participant Anskar Beasley, Professor of Jewish Philosophy and Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, deliberate concerns during a break in the proceedings.

FACULTY

Each year the Institute brings to Marshall-Wythe a major scholar as the Distinguished Lee Professor. Since the initiation of the program, the Lee Professors have included such prominent constitutional scholars as David Anderson of the University of Texas, Robert Kamenz of Vanderbilt University, Kent Greenawalt of Columbia University, Yale Kamisar of the University of Michigan, G. Edward White of the University of Virginia, and Robert F. Nagel of the University of Colorado. The contributions of these scholars have enhanced the reputation of the College and provided stimulating interaction with faculty and students. The Lee Professor for 1989 is David Rabban of the University of Texas, and in 1990, the Lee Professor will be Vincent Blasi of Columbia University. The Institute also brings to Marshall-Wythe Visiting Fellows, including Fellows affiliated with the Commonwealth Center for the Study of American Culture.

ACTIVITIES

The Institute of Bill of Rights Law engages in extensive conferences and publication projects. Some of the programs are directed toward scholarly research and theoretical analysis, some further communication between lawyers and journalists, while others seek to fulfill educational, public, and social service purposes. The Institute's symposia bring together scholars of various disciplines, practicing lawyers, and journalists, and symposium proceedings are published in The William and Mary Law Review. The Institute also publishes reports and monographs.

The Institute serves as an educational resource for journalists. It sponsors a number of programs on topics related to government and democracy, as well as programs designed to assist journalists in understanding and reporting on constitutional issues to the general public. The Institute conducts an annual Supreme Court Preview during which constitutional scholars and established journalists explore the underlying issues of cases on the Court's docket for the upcoming term. It also conducts workshops providing in-depth education on legal issues for members of the working press.

A significant aspect of the Institute's activities is its sponsorship of an ongoing series of task forces designed to explore creative solutions to emerging questions of constitutional law and policy. The task forces bring together leading thinkers, who represent various constituencies and ideological viewpoints, to tackle specific policy issues and propose reforms.

To stimulate dialogue and promote research on constitutional issues among Marshall-Wythe students, the Institute sponsors a Student Division of the Institute of Bill of Rights Law. The Student Division conducts educational programs throughout the year. The activities of the Student Division culminate in a yearly symposium-conceptualized, organized, and conducted by students, and resulting in a student symposium publication. The Student Division, an integral part of the Institute, serves to enhance the educational opportunities of students, and to promote the ideals of the lawyer as a thoughtful citizen contributing to the resolution of social and political problems.