1989

The Institute of Bill of Rights Law

Institute of Bill of Rights Law at The College of William & Mary School of Law

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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.

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REPRESENTATIVE

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or Affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

RESOLVED

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
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THE INSTITUTE OF BILL OF RIGHTS LAW AT THE MARSHALL-WYTE THE 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, public policy, and law. It functions as a forum for sharing and disseminating knowledge 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 creative 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 founded and president of Lee Enterprises, Inc., a communications corporation consisting of newspapers, electronic media and related entities, headquartered in Davenport, Iowa. The Institute receives both public and private funds. Its founding in 1982 at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law recognized the prominence of William and Mary and the College of William and Mary in the legal education of the early leaders of the United States. William and Mary, chartered in 1662, is the second-oldest institution 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 Institute's 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. Wythe held the first chair of law in America at Williamsburg and Mary from 1777-1790.

Top left: The law school's patio, a traditional gathering place for students, is often the site of planning sessions for actions of the Institute's Student Division.
Center: Attending the October 1985 program "Fundamentalist Religion and the Secular State: The Experience in America and Israel" are Carol Eghbal, Yair Arie Ben-Arga and Edel Weinberg.
Below: Program participant Jonathan Kaba, West Bank lawyer, civil rights activist, founder of law in the West Bank, program participant Associate Professor of Hebrew Philosophy and Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, delivets a talk 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 Kamen, University of Colorado, 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 Chicago. 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 Chicago, 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 public-service activities. Some of its programs are directed toward scholarly research and ideological analysis, some facilitate communication between lawyers and journalists, while others seek to reach the educational experience of law students and to broaden public knowledge of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Institute's annual symposium brings together scholars of various disciplines, practicing lawyers, and journalists. 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 the law, including workshops and seminars, as well as projects designed to assist journalists in understanding and reporting 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 public 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 ideal of the lawyer as a thoughtful citizen contributing to the resolution of social and political problems.

Above left: Robert F. Nagel, the Moses Lady Professor of Law at the University of Colorado and William and Mary, 1989-1990 Distinguished Lee Visiting Professor, is a participant at the April 1989 symposium "Reformulated Perspectives:"

Above: The Honorable Joseph A. Biden, United States Senator from Delaware, tells the impressive audience that the War Powers Resolution of 1973 has proven ineffective and should be annulled. Photo courtesy of the Daily Press.