



Stephanie Bascon

“Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”

– John Adams

A Message from the President

THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY WE ARE EXCITED THAT THE HONORABLE DON WILLETT HAS AGREED TO SPEAK AT OUR CONSTITUTION DAY DINNER CELEBRATION THIS SEPTEMBER. HE HAS NUMEROUS PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS THAT MAKE HIM A GREAT CHOICE AS OUR SPEAKER. HIS ENTERTAINING SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE SUGGESTS HE WILL BE AN ENGAGING SPEAKER. AND THEN THERE IS THE FACT THAT HE IS A LIFESAVER—QUITE LITERALLY. ¹

BUT THERE IS A SPECIFIC POSITION JUDGE WILLETT HAS HELD THAT MAKES HIM THE PERFECT PERSON TO SPEAK AT OUR CONSTITUTION DAY DINNER, AND THAT IS HIS SERVICE ON THE NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL SOURCES PROJECT. CONSOURCE IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT CREATES A “COMPREHENSIVE, EASILY SEARCHABLE, FULLY-INDEXED, AND FREELY ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF HISTORICAL SOURCES RELATED TO THE CREATION, RATIFICATION, AND AMENDMENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION.” ² ITS MISSION IS “TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING, FACILITATE RESEARCH, AND ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION BY CONNECTING INDIVIDUALS—including students, teachers, lawyers and judges—with the documentary history of its creation, ratification and amendment.” ³

AND WE AT CFI ARE ALL ABOUT THAT!

JUDGE WILLETT HAS SAID THAT CONSOURCE “AIMS TO ENRICH ‘WE THE PEOPLE’ VIA INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OUR CONSTITUTION.” ⁴

CONSOURCE IS AN EXCELLENT RESOURCE TO HELP GAIN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION. IT IS A TREASURE-TROVE OF FIRST SOURCES RELATED TO OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENTS. IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF IS-IT-FAKE-NEWS/IS-IT-NOT-FAKE-NEWS/IS-FAKE-NEWS-EVEN-REAL, FIRST SOURCES BECOME CRITICAL IN ANALYZING ANY ARGUMENT. AS JUDGE WILLETT HAS NOTED, CONSOURCE “GATHERS A DIGITIZED TROVE OF HARD-TO-FIND DOCUMENTS PREVIOUSLY SCATTERED IN ARCHIVES AROUND THE WORLD: NEWSPAPER REPORTS, HANDWRITTEN NOTES AND JOURNALS, SPEECHES, CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE RATIFICATION DEBATES, PERSONAL LETTERS DETAILING BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERINGS, AND OTHER FIRST-HAND RECORDS OF CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY.” ⁵

AS WE LAMENTED IN A PRIOR NEWSLETTER, WHEN ONLY 26% OF THOSE POLLED CAN NAME ALL THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE HAVE RESOURCES LIKE CONSOURCE THAT ALLOWS US TO KNOW OUR HISTORY AND TO DELVE INTO THE VERY DOCUMENTS THAT LED TO OUR U.S. CONSTITUTION AS IT WAS ULTIMATELY FRAMED.

WE HOPE WE ARE DOING THE SAME AT CFI. WE HOPE THAT OUR CONSTITUTION DAY DINNER CELEBRATIONS AND OUR APRIL DISCUSSIONS REMIND US OF THE NEED TO CELEBRATE AND APPRECIATE OUR PAST, REMEMBER OUR SHARED HISTORY AND WHAT TIES US TOGETHER. WE HOPE OUR SPEAKERS ENLIGHTEN YOU OR, IF YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH THEIR MESSAGE, WE HOPE THEY CHALLENGE YOU TO SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS AND YOUR ABILITY TO DEBATE AND ARTICULATE YOUR LOVE OF OUR COUNTRY.

SEE YOU SEPTEMBER 19!

**ALL THE BEST,
SB**

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1. KATIE HALL AND MARK WILSON, COURT JUSTICE, AUSTIN TEACHER RUSH TO CHOKING MAN'S AID AT CHICK-FIL-A, AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN (NOVEMBER 29, 2017 5:24 P.M.), [HTTPS://WWW.MYSTATESMAN.COM/NEWS/LOCAL/COURT-JUSTICE-AUSTIN-TEACHER-RUSH-CHOKING-MAN-AID-CHICK-FIL/FWCWYEXFKGXH0WUL8SNPOJ/](https://www.mystatesman.com/news/local/court-justice-austin-teacher-rush-choking-man-aid-chick-fil/fwcwyexfkgxh0wul8snpoj/)
 2. [HTTP://CONSOURCE.ORG](http://consource.org)
 3. [HTTP://CONSOURCE.ORG/ABOUT/](http://consource.org/about/)
 4. DON WILLETT, GUEST COLUMNIST, JUSTICE DON R. WILLETT, GUEST COLUMNIST: ONLINE RESOURCE HELPS US BETTER UNDERSTAND OUR CONSTITUTION, WACO TRIBUNE-HERALD (SEPTEMBER 17, 2010), [HTTP://WWW.WACOTRIB.COM/OPINION/COLUMNS/GUEST_COLUMNS/JUSTICE-DON-R-WILLETT-GUEST-COLUMNIST-ONLINE-RESOURCE-HELPS-US/ARTICLE_4281C88F-91F7-50A2-9F2B-797C5D875169.HTML](http://www.wacotrib.com/opinion/columns/guest_columns/justice-don-r-willettt-guest-columnist-online-resource-helps-us/article_4281c88f-91f7-50a2-9f2b-797c5d875169.html)
 5. ID.



CONSTITUTION DAY DINNER

with

Justice Don Willett

U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit

September 19, 2018

Doors open at 5:30PM

We are very excited to announce our guest speaker this year is The Honorable Don Willett, Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Willett previously served as Texas Deputy Attorney General, as well as Justice on the Texas Supreme Court. He was on then-candidate Trump's short list for a possible seat on the United States Supreme Court before being nominated for the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals where he has served since January 2, 2018. The Texas House of Representatives nicknamed him "Tweeter Laureate" for his active presence on Twitter.

McKenna Arts Center
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Visit our website at www.cfi1787.org to reserve a sponsor table or email us at constitutionalistfoundation@gmail.com.

You can also call 830-625-2940.

The deadline to sign up to be a Sponsor is July 20, with payment in full by August 1. Beginning August 1, we will sell tables for \$100 for a table of 8 and individual tickets at \$10.

We will have a catered dinner this year and a cash bar.



APRIL EVENT '18

In our most recent event held at the flavorful Gourmage Winery in New Braunfels, TX, esteemed Professors from Texas State University, Dr. Ashleen Menchaca - Bagnulo (Political Science) and Dr. Bryan Glass (British History) led patrons through a lively discussion on one of the most pressing political questions of today's age. In the wake of mass shootings, is the 2nd amendment still functional to ensure domestic tranquility?

Dr. Glass recalled us back to the original intent of the 2nd Amendment as well as the history and relationship between the colonies and King George III. Coming in to lead the crowd in a Socratic dialogue, Dr. Menchaca-Bagnulo elaborated on the U.S. Supreme Court decision, *District of Columbia vs. Heller* (which discussed the individuals right to carry a handgun in the D.C. Area). She would then go on to make a social comment on a possible moral degradation of humanity that may be perpetuated by the digital media age. The patrons engaged back with a barrage of insightful questions from both young and older generations!

As the dialogue came to its end, our lectures and patrons participated with passion in one our most ancient of traditions, political discussion. *The Constitutionalist Foundation* takes these moments as sacred, for they further educate the next wise and prudent patriots to formulate, with confidence, through careful cogitation their, sound political positions on the constitutional issues of today.

"THE CONSTITUTION IS THE GUIDE WHICH I WILL NEVER ABANDON"
- GEORGE WASHINGTON



Board Member Spotlight:

Cutter W. González brings a body of experience effecting policy and electing principled lawmakers at the federal, state, and local levels. He has worked on behalf of numerous political organizations to further an agenda of economic freedom, individual responsibility, and liberty. Most notably, his activism led him to work on Rand Paul's Iowa Caucus team in 2016 during the Senator's presidential bid.

Cutter recently joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation team, where he serves as the Energy Project Campaign Manager and Policy Analyst. His work with the Foundation focuses on purifying energy markets, ending the federal and state subsidies that use taxpayer dollars to incentivize big business at the expense of local quality of life, grid reliability, and long-term affordability.

In 2017, Cutter earned his Bachelor of Science in Geography degree with minors in psychology and public administration from Texas State University and is a proud Century Member of the Alumni Association. He is currently working on a Master of Arts in International Relations degree from St. Mary's University.





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