



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**San Diego Public Library**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, October 15, 2012

**CONTACT:** Marc Chery  
619-236-5817

**SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS DISCUSSION FORUM ON HOW TO  
INTERPRET THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

*Ongoing Civic Programs Foster Public Conversation about the Constitution*

**SAN DIEGO** –There will be a panel discussion, *Eye to Eye with the Constitution: A Question of Interpretation*, with professors Rodney Smith and Alex Kreit of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law on Saturday, October 20, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at the Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library located at 3701 Voltaire Street. This program is presented in conjunction with the several month long library project, *Searching for Democracy: A Public Conversation about the Constitution* sponsored by Cal Humanities.

Professors Smith and Kreit will explore various theories of constitutional interpretation including the originalist and non-originalist “living document” views. What are the appropriate sources of authority to guide constitutional interpretation and what relative weight should be assigned to the various appropriate sources? What are these sources that have guided interpretation the Constitution including textual, intention of the framers, prior precedents, natural or God's law, or the social, political, and economic consequences of alternative interpretations?

*Searching for Democracy* brings together people from diverse backgrounds to attend and discuss the Constitution at programs including lectures, book discussions, films, digital stories, and performance. Young and old, rich and poor, new citizens and long-term residents will have the opportunity to openly explore the understanding of our American heritage and citizenry. The endeavor will also afford individual library patrons a greater understanding of the Library's vast collection of Constitution related titles and digital resources.

**-more-**

Professor Kreit is actively involved in the community. He is currently President of the American Constitution Society, San Diego chapter. From 2009 to 2010 he served as Chair of the City of San Diego’s Medical Marijuana Task Force, appointed by the San Diego City Council. He has been recognized as one San Diego’s top attorneys in the academic field by the *San Diego Daily Transcript* and one of “35 under 35” community leaders by the *San Diego News Network* (2010).

Professor Smith is Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Sports Law and Policy at the Thomas Jefferson Law School. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and is recognized for his scholarship in the freedom of religion and sports law areas, having published three books on public prayer and sports law. His talk is based on his forthcoming book, *The Right of Conscience and the Meaning of the First Amendment*, in which he argues that the First Amendment is intended to protect the right of conscience in all its various forms.

Visit <http://sandiego.communityguides.com/constitution> to find out more about the Constitution series. Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.gov](http://www.sandiegolibrary.gov).

*Inspiring lifelong learning through connections to knowledge and each other*

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