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The Bill of Rights Institute Announces New Resources on Religious Liberty

Arlington, VA — <u>The Bill of Rights Institute</u> announces the launch of their *Educating Young Americans about the Fundamental Principles of Religious Liberty* Initiative developed in partnership with the George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom.

The *Religious Liberty* Initiative plans to educate tens of thousands of middle and high school teachers and students about religious liberty as guaranteed by our First Amendment and articulated in primary source documents including the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, George Washington's letter to the Touro Synagogue, and others.

The national initiative includes developing and conducting ten Constitutional Seminars during the 2010-2011 school year in major metropolitan areas, developing a five-lesson curriculum, and an online professional development seminar for teachers that can only participate remotely.

The seminars will focus on religious liberty from the colonies to early controversies, landmark Supreme Court cases, and current events. They will be held around the county starting on Sept. 21 in Providence, R.I. and concluding in Atlanta, Ga. on March 3. Seminars will also be held in Houston, Texas; Dearborn, Mich.; Chicago, Ill.; Los Angeles, Calif.; Memphis, Tenn.; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Miami, Fla. Click here for more information.

The five-lesson curriculum tied to national civics, history and social studies standards, contains content-rich background essays and utilizes research-based teaching strategies to help middle and high school students explore religious liberty.

The Bill of Rights Institute will also develop online programs focused on religious liberty for teachers who are unable to attend an on-site seminar. An On Demand Constitutional Seminar focused on religious liberty will be available in Spring 2011, providing teachers with 6 continuing education credits.

Two webinars will also be conducted during the 2010-2011 school year. The first will be held on Bill of Rights Day, Dec. 15, and will focus on the First Amendment and religious liberty. The second webinar will be held on Presidents Day, Feb. 15, and will feature George Washington's letter to the Touro Synagogue.

Starting in September, the Bill of Rights Institute will publish a monthly eLesson that will be available by e-mail to the 41,000 teacher subscribers and will focus on the Constitution and religious liberty. This resource will be distributed during the 2010-2011 school year totaling 10 eLessons.

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The Bill of Rights Institute, founded in 1999, is a nonprofit educational organization. The mission of the Bill of Rights Institute is to educate young people about the words and ideas of America's Founders, the liberties guaranteed in our Founding documents, and how our Founding principles continue to affect and shape a free society.