



200 North Glebe Road  
Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22203

Phone: 703-894-1776  
Fax: 703-894-1791

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Contact: Rachel Gillespie  
703-894-1776 x25

[RGillespie@BillofRightsInstitute.org](mailto:RGillespie@BillofRightsInstitute.org)

## The Bill of Rights Institute Launches Religious Liberty Initiative

**Arlington, VA** — The Bill of Rights Institute, in partnership with the George Washington Institute for Religious Freedom, will celebrate the start of the 2010-2011 school year by conducting the first of ten day-long teacher workshops on religious liberty. The first program will take place in Providence, Rhode Island, with nine more around the country to follow. At a time when constitutional issues surrounding freedom of religion dominate the headlines, teachers will find these programs and materials a valuable resource.

The seminars are part of a larger Religious Liberty Initiative, which will 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 Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island; Thomas Jefferson's Letter to the Danbury Baptist Association; and others. The national initiative includes ten day-long seminars during the 2010-2011 school year in major metropolitan areas, a five-lesson curriculum, and an online professional development seminar for teachers.

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 country 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. Visit [www.BillofRightsInstitute.org](http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org) 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 throughout American history and today.

The Bill of Rights Institute will also develop online programs focused on religious liberty for teachers to complete at their own pace. An On Demand Constitutional Seminar focused on religious liberty will be available in spring 2011, providing teachers with 6 continuing education credits.

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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.*