Richard Stockton College’s Constitution Day Celebration to Feature NJ Supreme Court’s Former Chief Justice Deborah Poritz

First of Multiple Constitution Day Events Set for September 21

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Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey will host its Sixth Annual Constitution Day celebration on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Former Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court, Deborah T. Poritz, will deliver the keynote address. The event will take place in the Alton Auditorium (A-Wing), which is located on the College’s main Galloway Township campus.

Linda J. Wharton, an associate professor of political science at Stockton, said, “In celebration of the 90th anniversary of women’s suffrage, Chief Justice Poritz’s presentation will focus on the development of the legal rights of women in New Jersey.”

Deborah Poritz became the first woman to serve as New Jersey’s attorney general in 1994, and she became the first woman to serve as New Jersey’s chief justice in 1996. She was nominated to both positions by former NJ Governor Christine Todd Whitman. Poritz is currently of counsel at the leading law firm Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, which serves clients internationally from its 12 offices located across the nation.

To RSVP to Deborah Poritz’s lecture, which is open to the public, please contact Professor Linda Wharton, at 609-652-4716 or Linda.Wharton@Stockton.edu. Due to the large number of guests anticipated, accommodations for an overflow will be arranged and announced closer to the date of the event.

The College’s Constitution Day celebration spans two months. Below is a complete list of events.

Special Note: The following events are not open to the public; however media coverage is welcomed.

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Wednesday, September 22, 6:00 p.m., Townsend Residential Life Center (TRLC)
Got Stopped? Constitutional Rights and Auto Stops

Ryan Clark, a criminal defense attorney in southern New Jersey, is a graduate of Stockton College (2003) and the Rutgers School of Law (2007). He will discuss the constitutional protections afforded to individual citizens during police auto stops, including probable cause requirements and potential defenses.

Tuesday, September 28, 2:30 p.m., Townsend Residential Life Center
William Kunstler: Disturbing the Universe (Film and Discussion)

This documentary film examines the life of attorney William Kunstler from a surprising angle. Kunstler’s two daughters grew up lionizing a man already famous for his historic civil rights and anti-war cases. Then, in their teens, they began to be disillusioned by a stubborn man who continued representing some of the most reviled defendants in America — this time accused rapists and terrorists. In this intimate biography, Emily and Sarah Kunstler seek to recover the real story of what made their late father one of the most beloved, and hated, lawyers in America. Winner of the L’Oreal Paris Women of Worth Vision Award, 2009 Sundance Film Festival.

Thursday, October 28, 2:30 p.m., Townsend Residential Life Center
The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg & the Pentagon Papers (Film and Discussion)

In 1971, Daniel Ellsberg, a leading Vietnam War strategist leaked 7,000 pages of top-secret documents (“the Pentagon Papers”) to The New York Times, an act of conscience which led directly to Watergate, President Nixon’s resignation, and the end of the Vietnam War. This 2010 Academy Award-nominated film is directed by Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith.

Saturday, October 30, Philadelphia
Visit the National Constitution Center

Join Professor Linda Wharton and Residential Life staff for a visit to the only museum in the nation dedicated to the U.S. Constitution. Vans will leave from the College in the morning and return in late afternoon.

Tuesday, November 30, 2:30 p.m., Townsend Residential Life Center
The Oath (Film and Discussion)

Filmed in Yemen and Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, this documentary film interweaves the stories of Abu Jandal, Osama bin Laden’s former bodyguard, and Salim Hamdan, a prisoner at Guantánamo facing war crimes charges. Winner of the 2010 Sundance Film Festival Excellence in Cinematography Award: D

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