



## **C-SPAN’s New Special History Series: “Landmark Cases: Historic Supreme Court Decisions”**

*Produced in cooperation with the National Constitution Center*

*12-part feature series airing Mondays at 9pm starting October 5*

*#LandmarkCases*

*(For Immediate Release, September 10, 2015)* – As the Supreme Court convenes for its 2015 session this October, C-SPAN will debut a new 12-part weekly history series produced in cooperation with the National Constitution Center, exploring the issues, people and places involved in some of the most historically significant Supreme Court cases in our nation’s history.

The 90-minute programs will air live on C-SPAN and C-SPAN3 (also the weekend home for American History TV) on Monday nights at 9 p.m. ET, beginning October 5, 2015. They will also be available on <http://c-span.org/landmarkcases> and will air live on C-SPAN Radio.

Using C-SPAN’s signature live format of studio guests interacting with viewers and interspersed with visits to historic sites for context, the series will explore the stories of historic rulings which changed American society, the plaintiffs who sparked these cases and the justices and lawyers who were key to the Supreme Court’s review. A video-rich website will offer the series on-demand along with classroom materials. Here is a two-minute video trailer previewing the series <https://youtu.be/6kuc5tyborM> .

Susan Swain, President and Co-CEO of C-SPAN and host of the series, said, “The cases chosen represent some of the tipping points in the Court’s history. Taken together, they represent our evolving understanding of rights in America.”

“The human stories behind Supreme Court cases have shaped the meaning of the Constitution today,” said Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. “We’ve picked twelve of the most significant and frequently cited cases in the Supreme Court’s history and are bringing to life the personalities, people and constitutional dramas that have made them so central to the way we live now.”

“Landmark Cases” will examine 12 rulings from our country’s founding through 1973:

- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), establishing the basis for judicial review—i.e., that federal courts have power to invalidate acts of other branches of government when they violate the Constitution;
- *Scott v. Sandford* (1857), holding that an African-American was not considered a citizen, and therefore had no standing to sue in court for his freedom;
- *Slaughterhouse Cases* (1873), holding that the Fourteenth Amendment protects “privileges and immunities” guaranteed by U.S. citizenship, but not the rights traditionally guaranteed by state citizenship;
- *Lochner v. New York* (1905), holding that liberty to enter contracts was protected by the Due Process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, and striking down a state law restricting the number of hours that a baker could work each week;
- *Schenck v. United States* (1919), holding that men who distributed leaflets encouraging resistance to the draft can be convicted of a crime under the Espionage Act of 1917 and that the First Amendment is not absolute;
- *Korematsu v. United States* (1944), holding that Japanese internment camps do not violate the Constitution, as they were justified by the Government’s national security interest during WWII;
- *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer* (1952), holding that the president did not have authority to seize private steel mills, even during war time;
- *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), holding that segregated schooling violates the Equal Protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because segregated schools could never be equal;
- *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961), protecting against unreasonable searches and seizures by holding that evidence obtained through an illegal search is not admissible in court;

- *Baker v. Carr* (1962), establishing that the manner by which a state legislature apportions seats in the state’s general assembly is a constitutional question, not a “political question,” and therefore it can be decided by federal courts;
- *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), establishing that police must notify subjects of their right to counsel and their right to avoid self-incrimination (to remain silent) before interrogating them;
- *Roe v. Wade* (1973), holding that the Due Process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects a woman’s decision whether to terminate a pregnancy, but this right must be balanced against the state's interests in protecting women's health and protecting the potentiality of human life.

Peabody Award winning producer Mark Farkas is the Executive Producer for this special. Farkas has produced and directed other signature series and documentaries for C-SPAN, including “The Supreme Court: Home to America’s Highest Court,” which broke ground by including all the current and former Supreme Court Justices in a television program for the first and only time.

###

#### **About C-SPAN:**

Created by the cable TV industry and now in nearly 100 million TV households, C-SPAN programs three HD public affairs television networks; C-SPAN Radio (90.1 in the Washington Baltimore area; nationwide at [c-span.org](http://www.c-span.org) through the C-SPAN Radio app and on XM satellite radio) and a video-rich website which hosts the C-SPAN Video Library. Visit <http://www.c-span.org/>.

#### **About the National Constitution Center:**

The [National Constitution Center](http://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires active citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a non-partisan basis.” As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit [constitutioncenter.org](http://constitutioncenter.org).