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College Commemorates Constitution Day

KEY WEST, FL, September 13, 2010— Florida Keys Community College will commemorate Constitution Day with students, faculty, staff, and community members on September 17 from 11:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. in the library on the Key West Campus. Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17, 1787, laying the foundation of our government.

Coordinated by FKCC Business Law instructor and local attorney, Stephen Muffler, the Constitution Day activities will educate students about their rights under the Constitutional Amendments and encourage habits of being a good citizen. The program will feature addresses by the President of the Florida Bar Mayanne Downs and Monroe County Court Judge Wayne Miller, who will discuss the Constitution’s significance in our government’s structure of separate, but equal, three branches of government, and specifically, the importance of an independent judiciary branch that functions to safeguard citizens’ Constitutional rights.

"The Constitution is the primary reason why our island is different than the one 90 miles south of us," says Muffler, who also teaches business law to graduate students at Nova Southeastern University. "Our Constitutional rights can be easily lost, rationed or reserved for the privileged if we neglect to defend them for the benefit of all."

The program will also include a showing of the American Civil Liberties Union “Freedom Files," donated by our local ACLU chapter, followed by lunch provided by FKCC’s Student Government Association. Free pocket constitutions, provided by the City of Key West’s Citizen Review Board, will be available.

"Judicial interpretation of Constitutional Provisions is just as important as the Constitution itself," Muffler adds. “Some judges see the Constitution through a ‘strict constructionist’ prism and others view it through the ‘evolutionist’ lens."

To learn more about the constructionist and evolutionist judicial interpretations, go to the FKCC homepage and view a US Supreme Court Justice debate with Justices Antonin Scalia and Stephen Breyer.

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