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## Maine Chief Justice Commemorates Constitution Day – September 18, 2017

**For Immediate Release, Portland Maine.** Maine Supreme Judicial Court Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley today urged the Maine public, along with Maine’s teachers and educators to recognize our nation’s Constitution Day, which is September 17, 2017.

It was on September 17, 1787, that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention met for the last time to sign the extraordinary document they had created. This year Constitution Day will be observed, nationwide, on the following day, Monday, September 18, 2017.

In marking the day, Chief Justice Saufley said, “The United States Constitution, including its twenty-seven amendments, has withstood the test of time as the ultimate guarantor of the rights and privileges of the people of the United States. It is one of the most important governing documents ever created by the people agreeing to be governed. It established a compact between the citizens of the United States and the federal government. The United States Constitution establishes three separate but equal branches of government, a brilliant method of balancing governmental power and protecting citizens from the problems that could result without these checks and balances.”

“However,” she continued, “the liberties enshrined in the United States Constitution can survive only if citizens are familiar with the Constitution, understand its content, and work to protect it. It is time to renew our commitment to civics education. Fortunately, there are a number of excellent websites for the public and for educators, with resources for all ages, which we have attached below. I hope that educators across Maine will take the opportunity to spend time next week commemorating the Constitution of the United States.”

For more information:

Video: [http://www.courts.maine.gov/news\\_reference/news/constitution-day.html](http://www.courts.maine.gov/news_reference/news/constitution-day.html)

The National Archives website contains high quality information for educators regarding the Constitution:

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day>

A printable PDF of the United States Constitution, along with the Bill of Rights and all subsequent amendments can be found at the National Constitution Center Museum webpage:

<https://constitutioncenter.org/constitutiondayassets/files/constitution.pdf>

College instructors and high school teachers may be interested in using interactive materials regarding the Constitution, also from the National Constitution Center:

<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution>

The website, iCivics, founded by, among others, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, also has educational materials for young learners:

[https://www.icivics.org/teachers?gclid=CjwKCAjw9O3NBRB3EiwAK6wPT4TLRsg8vbQMSm1reYaOsGjEqY2cAFAGmYsHFvzDiNVUxxKjUOwHpRoCgKoQAvD\\_BwE](https://www.icivics.org/teachers?gclid=CjwKCAjw9O3NBRB3EiwAK6wPT4TLRsg8vbQMSm1reYaOsGjEqY2cAFAGmYsHFvzDiNVUxxKjUOwHpRoCgKoQAvD_BwE)

The Library of Congress has resources for educators:

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/commemorative-observations/constitution-day.php>