

Indiana Constitutional Symposium, Thursday, November 5, 2026

Time	Location A Multipurpose Room, Indiana State Archives	Location B Author's Room, Indiana State Library
Session 1 9:00-10:00	SESSION 1A Lightning Talks: The Constitution and the Executive	SESSION 1B Roundtable Benjamin Harrison the Lawyer
	“The Governor and the Historian: Thomas Marshall, Jacob P. Dunn Jr., and the Reform of the Indiana Constitution.” Ray Boomhower, Historian and Senior Editor, Indiana Historical Society Press, and award-winning author most recently of <i>Wallace Terry: A Reporter's Journey from Selma to Saigon to Bloods</i> “<i>Tucker v. State</i>, the Indiana Constitution, and the Unitary Executive” Jon Laramore, Chief Executive Officer, Indiana Legal Services, Inc.; Leader and co-leader, appellate practice group, Baker & Daniels and Faegre Baker Daniels, 2005-2015; Chief Legal Counsel to Governors Frank O'Bannon and Joe Kernan “Intersection of the Constitution and Executive Branch” [working title] Michael Nosset, General Counsel to the Indiana Secretary of Education and the eight agencies reporting to the	<u>Panelists:</u> Charlie Hyde, President and CEO, Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site; Past President, Contemporary Club of Indianapolis; Past President, Indianapolis Consortium of Arts Administrators (ICAA) Judge James P. Hanlon, United States District Court, Southern District of Indiana; Adjunct Professor, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, Federal Criminal Practice Chief Judge Elizabeth Tavitias, Court of Appeals of Indiana; Adjunct Professor, IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law Chuck Dunlap, President and CEO, Indiana Bar Foundation; Administrator, Indiana Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) program, Coalition for Court Access, <i>We the People</i>, and Indiana High School Mock Trial Program

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	Office of Education, Governor's Office; Former Deputy General	
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Session 2 10:15 -11:00	SESSION 2A Lightning Talks: Black Hoosiers and the 1851 Constitution "You're Free but Not Welcome: 'Negroes and Mulattoes' in Article 13 of the 1851 Constitution of Indiana" Mark Stuaan, Visiting Professor IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Former Partner, Barnes & Thornburg, LLP, Former Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of Illinois and Southern District of Indiana "Reflections and Resilience: Black Pioneers and the 1851 Constitution" Kisha Tandy, Historian and Curator of Social History at the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, author of numerous talks and articles on Indiana Black history	SESSION 3B Roundtable: Indiana's Foundations of Independence <u>Panelists:</u> Justice Frank Sullivan, Professor of Practice, Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law; Indiana Supreme Court Justice (1993-2013) Dr. Nicole Etcheson, Alexander M. Bracken Endowed Chair of History, Ball State University, author of numerous books and articles including, <i>A Generation at War: The Civil War Era in a Northern Community</i> Dr. David Bodenhamer, Owner, NRR Strategies; Executive Director Emeritus, The Polis Center, Indiana University-Indianapolis; Professor of History and Informatics Emeritus, Indiana University-Indianapolis Ryan Cole, Historian and Author, most recently of <i>The Last Adieu: Lafayette's Triumphant Return, the Echoes of Revolution, and the Gratitude of the Republic</i>; Speechwriter, Office of Senator Todd Young Jill Weiss Simins, Historian and Director of Special Projects, Indiana State Archives

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Session 3 11:00-11:45	SESSION 3A Lightning Talks: Archives to Courtroom "The Warden's Report: Indiana's Constitutional Answer to Juvenile Justice, 1850 to Today" Joel Wieneke, Youth Defender, Marion County Public Defender Agency; Adjunct Clinical Professor, Indiana University Maurer School of Law (former Attorney for Child Advocates, Inc. and the Indiana Public Defender Council) "Inside the Chambers and the Archives: A View of the 'Second Wind' Era" Maggie Smith, Partner, FBT Gibbons; Member, American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; named among the 25 Women Attorneys in the state of Indiana by <i>Super Lawyers</i>; annually selected as one of <i>The Best Lawyers in America</i>, since 2009 and lawyer of the year in 2021 for best appellate practice	SESSION 2B Student Session "We the People" In this session, students will simulate a congressional hearing, allowing them to demonstrate their understanding of constitutional principles. Mississinewa High School, Class of Adam Williamson Student Essay Contest Awards High school students from around the state competed in an essay contest where they reflected on Indiana's 1851 constitution and its ongoing influence. First, second, and third place winners will receive their monetary awards and recognition. Rule of Law Committee of the Indianapolis Bar Association
12:00-1:00 Break for Lunch		
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Session 4	SESSION 4A	SESSION 4B

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1:00-1:45	Lightning Talks: Questions for Indiana’s Bill of Rights	Lightning Talks: Constitutional Essentials
	“Children’s Fundamental Rights Under the Indiana Constitution” Rachel Vilensky, Clinical Professor, Family Law Clinic Director, Indiana University Maurer School of Law; former Director, Direct Representation Program, Child Advocates; Rachel will be joined in this session by Tatum Romaniuk and Dominic Doukakis, students from the IU Maurer School of Law "Some say yes, some say no. Who has the better argument? Article 1, Section 19 and a constitutional entitlement to ignore the law" Traci Cosby, Assistant United States Attorney, Southern District of Indiana; Registered Domestic Relations Mediator; Deputy Prosecutor, Marion County Prosecutor’s Office (2022-2023); Commissioner, Marion Circuit Court – Paternity Division (2020-2021); Deputy Chief Litigation Counsel, Office of Corporation Counsel, City of Indianapolis/Marion County (2019-2020)	“Article 3: the Distribution of Powers provision in the Indiana Constitution of 1851” Judge Edward Najam, Indiana Court of Appeals, Indiana Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (among other Supreme Court committees), Chair of the Appellate Practice Section of the Indiana State Bar Association “The Education and Religion Clauses of the Indiana Constitution” Lauren Zentz, Attorney at McNeelyLaw, LLP; Juris Doctor, Indiana University Indianapolis Robert H. McKinney School of Law; Author of <i>Meredith v. Pence: A Lesson in Indiana Unconstitutional Law</i> (2025)
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		Keynote
2:00-3:00 Keynote	No session at ISA	Chief Justice Loretta Rush , Indiana Supreme Court,

		Past President of the Conference of Chief Justices; member of the National Center for State Courts Board of Directors; Judicial Conference Committee on Federal-State Jurisdiction; member of the American Law Institute; Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and an Academy of Law Alumni Fellow for the Maurer School of Law
		Virtual Keynote
Virtual Keynote 3:00-4:00	No Session at ISA	Judge Jeffrey Sutton , United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, in Conversation with Judge Leanna Weissman , Indiana Court of Appeals, Chair-Elect for Appellate Judges Council Executive Board
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	Quill Project Workshop	
Workshop 4:00-5:00	University of Oxford Quill Project This workshop will explore the Quill Project methodology for analysing and presenting state constitutional conventions, with a focus on what makes Indiana's 1851 convention distinctive. The workshop will include video link up with Oxford, as well as in-person and hands-on elements. Users will be introduced to the tools Quill is developing for	No session at ISL

	diverse audiences, including lawyers, educators, and researchers. Participants will also receive advance access to the in-progress model of the Indiana Constitutional Convention of 1851. Dr Nicholas Cole, Director of the University of Oxford Quill Project Maya Reilly, Quill Project Documentary Editor Bethany Jedlicka, Quill Senior Documentary Editor, With students from Utah Valley University, Center for Constitutional Studies	
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