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September 17, 2007

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV)  
311 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-4801  
202-224-3954

**Subject: The All-out Assault to Destroy the United States Constitution**  
**Reference: Constitution Day**

Dear Senator Byrd:

Thank you for your leadership and patriotism, especially as such relates to Constitution Day.

In some of today's news reports one can detect an urgency regarding the ignorance of our young regarding the history and importance of the United States Constitution. In truth, those that have historically mounted and/or are currently engaged in an all-out assault on that hallowed document, up to and including President Bush, **rely** on the ignorance of the electorate. I do not condone the ignorance of the electorate any more that I condone the assault committed by traitors. I never dreamed, in my wildest allegedly partisan discourse, that I would suspect the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of being a member of the latter.

Enclosed you will find an exact copy of a letter that I wrote to Chief Justice Roberts, which was signed for at the U.S. Supreme Court on April 4, 2007 (I have also enclosed these on cd in case you needed a digital format.). After its receipt I received a telephone call informing me that the Chief Justice had no intention of responding to my simple question:

*“Your use of the phrase “constitutional democracy” is confusing. In is my understanding that the Founding Fathers (and the great woman that brought them into the world) intended that the United States of America be founded as a constitutional republic. My simple question follows: Is the United States of America a constitutional democracy or a constitutional republic?”*

I was told by the Court clerk that Chief Justice Roberts was “too busy.”

Above you will note that my email is at Cornell University, my alma mater. That is somewhat ironic in the following way: The end of the Revolutionary War was consummated on September 3, 1783 at the signing of the Treaty of Paris in Paris, France. This set the final stages for the United States Constitution. However, after being told that the Chief Justice was “too busy” to respond to my ‘simple question,’ he found time to accompany my alma mater to . . . Paris, France . . . on a taxpayer funded junket, to attend a ceremony that was **once again** dedicated to the celebration of America and American law. Attached to this letter you will find various photographs from the Cornell web site that reports the attendance of the U.S. Supreme Court at the gala in Paris. The links to the Cornell University report are here:

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July07/lawParisCover.html>

<http://www.news.cornell.edu/stories/July07/lawParisSlides.html>

The United States Constitution has been under assault since being signed on September 17, 1787. In my opinion the major milestones of that assault include the following:

1. The Federal Reserve Act of December 23, 1913,
2. The USA PATRIOT Act of October 17, 2001,
3. The announcement of July 19, 2005 by the George Bush appointee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Chief Justice John Roberts, that the United States is no longer a constitutional republic; but is now a “constitutional democracy.”

As such the source of that assault has been and continues to be private interests, **not** the virtues of the public good (How could it be?). In truth, per Benjamin Franklin, it was not a tea party that led to the revolt by the Colonies, the revolt was caused by the outlawing of *Colonial Script* in 1764, replaced by notes issued by King George’s Bank of England, a private institution. Franklin said:

*"The refusal of King George to operate an honest colonial money system which freed the ordinary man from the clutches of the manipulators was probably the prime cause of the Revolution . . . The Colonies would gladly have borne the little tax on tea and other matters, had it not been that England took away from the Colonies their money, which created unemployment and dis-satisfaction."*

During a vicious debate at the White House regarding the Constitutionality of the USA PATRIOT Act, it was widely reported that President Bush blurted the following treasonous statement:

*"I don't give a goddamn. I'm the President and the Commander in Chief. Do it my way . . . (it's just) a goddamned piece of paper."*

Currently we are being pressured by private interests to execute the ‘North American Union’ (NAU). To execute this arrangement, the United States Constitution cannot remain intact; it must be watered down to the point of being mute. That tact was announced by Chief Justice Roberts when he declared the United States is merely a constitutional democracy, **which by-definition replaces the ‘rule of law’ with mobocracy**. Not surprisingly, the control of mass news media, the mechanism by which the opinions/votes of the “mob” are formed, has recently been concentrated into five corporations. The very private interests that convened at Jekyll Island, and then subverted the Constitution by enactment of the Federal Reserve Act, own the media, and are preparing to issue the NAU currency, the “amero.” <http://youtube.com/watch?v=6hiPrsc9g98> . In this context, I am convinced that the recent collapse of the dollar has nothing to do with “market forces.”

I have shared my Chief Justice Roberts letter with Congress, the Bar, the media, and many friends. To-date only one friend assisted by posting it to her website: <http://www.spingola.com:80/Paul%20Sheridan.htm> .

Please cover my letter with a request to Chief Justice John Roberts that he respond to my “simple question.”

Sincerely and respectfully,

Paul V. Sheridan

enclosures/attachments



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**Vincent Lamanda, right, first president of the Cour de cassation, and John Roberts, center, chief justice of the United States, arrive for the ceremony.**

Photo by Jason Koski/University Photography

Photo 2 of 15



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First President Vincent Lamanda addresses the audience, which includes four U.S. Supreme Court justices and their European counterparts as well as a contingent of faculty, alumni and students.

Photo by Jason Koski/University Photography

Photo 5 of 15



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Vincent Lamanda presents Claire Germain with the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur medal, France's highest honor, for her efforts in bridging the American and French legal cultures.

Photo by Jason Koski/University Photography

Photo 9 of 15

# CHRONICLE ONLINE

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July 17, 2007

## Amid pomp, ceremony and thanks to Cornell Law School, new center brings American law books to Paris

By Linda Myers

PARIS -- French republican guards stood at attention in full regalia, from plumed silver helmets to swords at the hilt, while close to 100 invited guests ascended the marble staircase in the centuries-old building this morning (July 17).

The setting was the Cour de cassation, France's highest civil and criminal court, in the Palais de Justice on the Quai de l'Horloge in Paris. Among those in attendance were four U.S. Supreme Court justices and their European counterparts as well as a contingent of faculty, alumni and students from Cornell Law School and its summer institute in Paris.

The occasion was the dedication of a collection of 13,000 volumes of American case law, a gift from the Law School to the Cour de cassation. The only collection of its kind in France, it will be housed within the court as the Cornell Center for Documentation on American Law. The collection will be made available to French magistrates and to Cornell law faculty and students in the Paris summer institute.

About 2,000 of the books, most of them on U.S. Supreme Court rulings, have already arrived and were on view in the elegant two-story court library, a room with wrought iron balconies and carved-wood trim where the ceremony took place.



Jason Koski/University Photography

**Stewart Schwab, the Allan R. Tessler Dean of Cornell Law School, speaks at the dedication ceremony of the Cornell Center for Documentation on American Law at the Cour de cassation in Paris, July 17, to an audience including Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg '54, seated, and Professor Claire Germain, right. At left is the interpreter for the event.**

[More photos](#)

As a marker for posterity, an elegant plaque announcing Cornell Law School's role in establishing the center was prominently placed over the library doorway, high above the ceremony participants.

Vincent Lamanda, first president of the court, a position akin to chief justice of the United States,

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### Related Information:

[Slide show from the dedication](#)

[Streaming video of the event](#)  
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[How the Cornell Law School center in Paris came to be](#)

[Basil S. Markesini brokers Cornell's gift to French high court](#)



Jason Koski/University Photography

**Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg '54 signs a book commemorating the dedication for Professor Claire Germain.**

The Cornell American law collection came about when Sir Basil Markesinis, a former Law School faculty member, approached Schwab and told him that the court was interested in acquiring a library on American law. The dean then talked with Germain, who proposed that the library make a gift of the thousands of duplicate copies of case decisions, law journals and other materials, which were in less demand since the advent of the Internet. "In Europe, however, where electronic access is considerably limited, these paper-based materials are highly valued," she recalled advising the dean.

Germain, who was born in France and is both a French and an American citizen, was visibly touched when during the dedication Lamanda presented her with the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur medal, France's highest honor, originating under Napoleon, for her efforts in bridging the American and French legal cultures. Later she related that her grandfather had also received the medal for his services as a colonel in the French army during World Wars I and II.

Schwab received a Chevalier de L'Ordre du Mérite medal, a high French honor that Germain's father, a distinguished civil servant in the ministry of finance, also received several years ago.

"We are standing in an inspiring room witnessing the rebirth of jurisprudence where common principles dominate," Schwab told the gathering. "All of us are working to improve our world through a conception of a rule of law that protects individual liberties and the democratic process. I am proud that the Cornell center will further that goal for years to come as judges and scholars read these books and ponder their relevance to their own legal systems."

Germain noted, "In a world increasingly dominated by the Internet, it is important to remember that actual physical contact with books is essential to the communication of knowledge from generation to generation. They [books] are part of our international heritage and bear witness to our civilization."

began the dedication with a thank you: "I pay tribute to Cornell Law School Dean Stewart Schwab and Law School librarian and professor Claire Germain for having made it possible to express in such a magnificent way the international cooperation that exists between France and the United States."

Added Jean-Louis Nadal, procureur général of the Cour de cassation, a title similar to chief prosecutor: "It is for us a source of pride to become the gateway of legal knowledge between our two continents and countries."



Jason Koski/University Photography

**Professor Claire Germain received the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur medal, France's highest honor, for her efforts in bridging the American and French legal cultures.**

During the plaque's unveiling, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Cornell Class of 1954, memorialized Cornell Law School professor and former teacher and colleague the late Rudolph Schlesinger. After escaping from Nazi Germany to the United States, he became one of the foremost experts on international comparative



*Jason Koski/University Photography*

**This plaque announces Cornell Law School's role in establishing the center. [Larger version](#)**

law and the first to teach it at a major law school, she related. "He taught me the value of learning from other legal systems and recognizing their common core as well as their differences. I know he would applaud the establishment of this center. This is a bright moment."

Also taking part in the dedication were John Roberts, chief justice of the United States, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justices Stephen Breyer and Anthony Kennedy, and Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, lord chief justice of England and Wales and president of the Network of Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union. All were in Paris to participate in a judicial conference of the European Union network and the U.S.

Supreme Court that followed the dedication.

"This is a fantastic effort in helping to spread to different cultures and systems what the American legal system is like," said Joel Simon '82, J.D. '85, a lawyer practicing in Paris who attended the dedication. "The cooperation between France and America is exemplified by this collection."

*Freelancer Linda Myers is a former writer for the Cornell Chronicle.*

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# Tab 1

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2 April 2007

VIA FEDEX SHIPPER # 8535 4296 8820

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.  
Supreme Court of the United States  
One First Street N.E.  
Washington, DC 20543  
202-479-3211

**Subject : A Simple Question**

Dear Chief Justice Roberts:

My only experience with the U.S. Supreme Court was my work (in behalf of the plaintiff) in the case of *Baker v General Motors*. Requests for my assistance originated with Professor Lawrence Tribe of Harvard University. Although prior to your appointment to the Court, the ruling was unanimous in favor of the plaintiff. For this and many other efforts (in transportation safety) I was chosen to receive the Civil Justice Foundation award, along with 2008 presidential candidate John Edwards and Father Patrick Doyle.

My question to you is not-nearly as complex as the issues of *Baker v GM*. My question is simple. It is based on a quote you made at the White House subsequent to being nominated by President Bush in July 2005. Your quote follows:

*“Before I became a judge, my law practice consisted largely of arguing cases before the Court. That experience left me with a profound appreciation for the role of the Court in our constitutional democracy . . . ”*

Your use of the phrase “constitutional democracy” is confusing. It is my understanding that the Founding Fathers (and the great women that brought them into the world) intended that the United States of America be founded as a constitutional *republic*. My simple question follows: Is the United States of America a constitutional democracy or a constitutional republic?

Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Respectfully and sincerely,

Paul V. Sheridan

attachments



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PRESIDENT  
GEORGE W. BUSH

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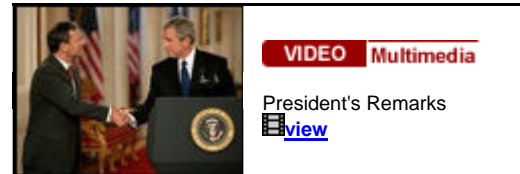
For Immediate Release  
Office of the Press Secretary  
July 19, 2005

## President Announces Judge John Roberts as Supreme Court Nominee

The State Floor

 [In Focus: Judicial Nominations](#)  
 [en Español](#)

9:02 P.M. EDT



THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. One of the most consequential decisions a President makes is his appointment of a Justice to the Supreme Court. When a President chooses a Justice, he's placing in human hands the authority and majesty of the law. The decisions of the Supreme Court affect the life of every American.

And so a nominee to that Court must be a person of superb credentials and the highest integrity; a person who will faithfully apply the Constitution and keep our founding promise of equal justice under law. I have found such a person in Judge John Roberts.

And tonight, I'm honored to announce that I am nominating him to serve as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. John Roberts currently serves on one of the most influential courts in the nation, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.



Before he was a -- before he was a respected judge, he was known as one of the most distinguished and talented attorneys in America. John Roberts has devoted his entire professional life to the cause of justice and is widely admired for his intellect, his sound judgment, and personal decency.

Judge Roberts was born in Buffalo and grew up in Indiana. In high school, he captained his football team, and he worked summers in a steel mill to help pay his way through college. He's an honors graduate of both Harvard College and Harvard Law School. In his career, he has served as a law clerk to Justice William Rehnquist, as an Associate Counsel to President Ronald Reagan, and as the Principal Deputy Solicitor General in the Department of Justice.

In public service and in private practice, he has argued 39 cases before the Supreme Court and earned a reputation as one of the best legal minds of his generation. Judge Roberts has earned the respect of people from both political parties. After he was nominated for the Court of Appeals in 2001, a bipartisan group of more than 150 lawyers sent a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee. They wrote:

"Although as individuals we reflect a wide spectrum of political party affiliation and ideology, we are united in our belief that John Roberts will be an outstanding federal court appeals judge and should be confirmed by the United States Senate."

The signers of this letter included a former counsel to a Republican President, a former counsel to two Democratic Presidents, and a former -- and former high-ranking Justice Department officials of both parties.

My decision to nominate Judge Roberts to the Supreme Court came after a thorough and deliberative process. My staff and I consulted with more than 70 members of the United States Senate. I received good advice from both Republicans and Democrats. I appreciate the care they took. I'm grateful for their advice. I reviewed the credentials of many well-qualified men and women. I met personally with a number of potential nominees.

In my meetings with Judge Roberts, I have been deeply impressed. He's a man of extraordinary accomplishment and ability. He has a good heart. He has the qualities Americans expect in a judge: experience, wisdom, fairness, and civility. He has profound respect for the rule of law and for the liberties guaranteed to every citizen. He will strictly apply the Constitution and laws, not legislate from the bench.



He's also a man of character who loves his country and his family. I'm pleased that his wife, Jane, and his two beautiful children, Jack and Josie, could be with us tonight. Judge Roberts has served his fellow citizens well, and he is prepared for even greater service.

Under the Constitution, Judge Roberts now goes before the United States Senate for confirmation. I've recently spoken with leaders Senator First and Senator Reid, and with senior members of the Judiciary Committee, Chairman Specter and Senator Leahy. These senators share my goal of a dignified confirmation process that is conducted with fairness and civility. The appointments of the two most recent Justices to the Supreme Court prove that this confirmation can be done in a timely manner.

So I have full confidence that the Senate will rise to the occasion and act promptly on this nomination. It is important that the newest Justice be on the bench when the Supreme Court reconvenes in October. I believe that Democrats and Republicans alike will see the strong qualifications of this fine judge as they did when they confirmed him by unanimous consent to the judicial seat he now holds.

I look forward to the Senate voting to confirm Judge John Roberts as the 109th Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Judge Roberts, thank you for agreeing to serve, and congratulations.

JUDGE ROBERTS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you. Thank you, very much. It is both an honor and very humbling to be nominated to serve on the Supreme Court.

Before I became a judge, my law practice consisted largely of arguing cases before the Court. That experience left me with a profound appreciation for the role of the Court in our constitutional democracy and a deep regard for the Court as an institution. I always got a lump in my throat whenever I walked up those marble steps to argue a case before the Court, and I don't think it was just from the nerves.

I am very grateful for the confidence the President has shown in nominating me, and I look forward to the next step in the process before the United States Senate.

It's also appropriate for me to acknowledge that I would not be standing here today if it were not for the sacrifice and help of my parents, Jack and Rosemary Roberts, my three sisters, Cathy, Peggy, and Barbara, and of course, my wife, Jane. And I also want to acknowledge my children -- my daughter, Josie, my son, Jack -- who remind me every day why it's so important for us to work to preserve the institutions of our democracy.

Thank you again, very much.

END 9:09 P.M. EDT

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# Tab 2



## Cornell Law School

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Stewart J. Schwab  
The Allan R. Tessler Dean  
and Professor of Law

June 22, 2005

Dear Paul,

I was delighted to see that you are to be honored as a Community Champion by the Civil Justice Foundation in Toronto next month. Congratulations!

We are always pleased when an alumnus of Cornell University gets the recognition they richly deserve.

I hope you enjoy the occasion, & I wish you success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Stef Schwab





  
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AP

## Canadian Dollar at Parity With Greenback

Thursday September 20, 4:51 pm ET

By Jackie Farwell, AP Business Writer

### US Dollar Reaches Parity With Canadian Dollar, Falls to Record Lows Against Euro, Indian Rupee

NEW YORK (AP) -- For the first time since Gerald Ford was president, the loonie can buy as much as the greenback.

The U.S. dollar's recent decline against the Canadian dollar, the euro, and even the Indian rupee, means Americans will pay more for imports and trips to Paris, Rome, Bangalore and Toronto. It also may drive overseas demand for U.S. goods and help raise profits at U.S. multinational corporations.

The U.S. dollar reached 1-to-1 parity against the Canadian dollar Thursday for the first time since November 1976. That means one Canadian dollar now buys one U.S. dollar, so a bottle of maple syrup could cost an American as much in Toronto as it does in New York.

Today's numbers, however, do not mean that the dollar is facing a meltdown.

Thursday's drop is of greater concern to currency markets than U.S. households, except "if you're a connoisseur of French wines or Canadian maple syrup," said David Gilmore, a partner at Foreign Exchange Analytics in Essex, Conn.

A lower dollar makes U.S. exports more competitive, which is good news for American manufacturers but spells rising prices for imports to the U.S. The dollar's decline also diminished the spending power of American tourists while attracting to the U.S. foreign visitors who seek cheaper accommodations and shopping.

Daina Jefferies exited Macy's at the Walden Galleria Mall in the Buffalo suburb of Cheektowag, about 10 miles from the Canadian border, and added a couple of bags to a collection already in the back of her car.

"I just bought the same things I bought last week in Toronto for half the price," she said. "I'm going to go home and return them. I knew I was coming so I thought I wouldn't take the tags off. Now there's no way I'm keeping it because it's twice as expensive."

Krys Esteves of Caledon, near Toronto, headed into the mall with her mother, Maria Swica of Mississauga, Ontario, planning to take advantage of weaker American dollar.

"My son wants a soft-serve ice cream maker for Christmas so I'm looking for that," Esteves said. "It's just to compare. Right now, I know it's definitely to our advantage."

The Canadian dollar hovered near parity in late New York trading Thursday, buying 99.93 U.S. cents.

Known as the loonie because of the bird pictured on the one-dollar coin, Canada's currency rose sharply against the U.S. dollar after the Federal Reserve on Tuesday announced a dramatic half-point cut in its benchmark interest rates. While aimed at shoring up U.S. credit markets, the cut further weakened the dollar against other currencies by reducing returns on dollar-denominated investments.

Even before the rate cut, the Canadian dollar experienced a summer of record highs. Canada, a major oil exporter, has benefited from soaring crude prices and a strong economy.

Oil prices surged into record territory Thursday as the weakening U.S. dollar fueled buying by making futures cheaper for foreign investors.

"The Canadian economy that once used to be the sleepy little resource backwater of the North American economy is certainly turning the tables on its big brother in a hurry," said Jeff Rubin, chief economist and strategist at CIBC World Markets.

The United States, meanwhile, has suffered a collapse of much of its housing market and a worsening credit crunch, prompting the Fed's dramatic action this week. The central bank is far less concerned about the value of the nation's currency, however, said Michael Woolfolk, senior currency strategist at the Bank of New York.

"There's a conspicuous silence coming from the Fed with respect to the value of the dollar," he said.

A lower currency typically fosters worries about inflation, but the U.S. dollar's decline over the last year has been too gradual for the Fed to consider intervening by raising interest rates, Woolfolk said.

The U.S. currency also plummeted to a new low Thursday against the 13-nation euro, which traded above \$1.40 for the first time since it was introduced in 1999. The euro rose as high as \$1.4098 Thursday before falling back to \$1.4076, up from \$1.3964 late Wednesday.

The \$1.40 level has long been viewed as a key benchmark in terms of driving the euro toward becoming a reserve currency of choice -- a position long held by the now-weakening dollar.

The dollar was down across the board Thursday, dropping to a nine-year low against the Indian rupee amid strong demand from foreign funds investing in India's booming economy. The rupee rose to 39.92 per dollar in intraday trading, breaching the 40 rupees-per-dollar mark for the first time since May 1998.

The dollar also dipped against the British pound, falling to \$2.0099 from \$2.0025 late Wednesday, after U.K. retail sales in August rose by 0.6 percent from July. The U.S. currency fell against the Japanese yen to 114.44 from 116.09 late Wednesday.

The falling dollar could be good news for multinational corporations because it makes American-made goods more affordable in international markets while making it harder for foreign manufacturers to undercut domestic competition.

On the other hand, it worries the U.S. government by scaring away foreign investors who help to finance the country's debt. As investment in U.S. Treasury securities dwindles, the government will have to pay higher rates at weekly auctions to find buyers for its bills, notes and bonds.

That eventually could push up borrowing costs for all Americans.

Associated Press writers Matt Moore and Melissa Eddy in Berlin, Rob Gillies in Toronto, Carolyn Thompson in Buffalo, N.Y., and Tali Arbel in New York contributed to this report.

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Letter of September 17, 2007  
(Constitution Day)

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