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**Notre Dame Professor Vincent Phillip Muñoz to Speak at U.S. Department of**

**Justice Forum on Free Speech in Higher Education**

**[Notre Dame, IN, September 16, 2018]** Tocqueville Associate Professor of Political Science [Vincent Phillip Muñoz](https://politicalscience.nd.edu/faculty/faculty-list/vincent-phillip-munoz/) is one of a small handful of academics chosen to participate in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Forum on Free Speech in Higher Education on Monday, September 17, in Washington, D.C. The Forum will be broadcast on CSPAN-2 and live-streamed at [www.justice.gov/live](http://www.justice.gov/live).

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions will give the opening remarks at the meeting, where congressional leaders, Department of Justice officials, non-profit leaders, constitutional law scholars, and other public intellectuals will participate in panels exploring campus culture and how First Amendment issues at U.S. colleges and universities should be handled moving forward.

Professor Muñoz’s testimony, titled “Securing Free Speech and Free Inquiry: Lessons from the Notre Dame Experience,” will emphasize the vital role of universities as places where the search for truth is paramount.

"Intellectual diversity, academic freedom, and freedom of speech are means to an end: the end of truth-seeking. If a university does not retain its traditional mission of seeking the truth through reasoned discourse, it will not remain committed to freedom of inquiry or freedom of speech. Freedom of the mind is a necessary prerequisite of truth seeking through reasoned discourse," Muñoz said.

He also stresses the importance of diversity of thought on campuses. In other words, he believes that it is crucial and fundamental to the very mission of higher education to make room for opinions and scholarship across the political spectrum.

"Until our faculties become more ideologically diverse, until our universities recommit themselves to truth-seeking, and until our students are taught that college is where you engage arguments and encounter ideas with which you disagree, intellectual freedom, both on campus and in America more generally, will be threatened."

Professor Muñoz and the [Constitutional Studies Program](https://constudies.nd.edu/), which he directs, have led the free speech movement at Notre Dame. Professor Muñoz forcefully defended, on free speech grounds, the program’s 2017 invitation to the controversial social scientist Charles Murray, both in [print](https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2017/03/22/why_i_invited_charles_murray_to_speak_at_notre_dame_133401.html) and in [two interviews](http://video.foxnews.com/v/5372142130001/#sp=show-clips) with [Tucker Carlson](http://insider.foxnews.com/2017/03/28/charles-murray-protests-notre-dame-peaceful-debate-students-faculty). This fall, the Constitutional Studies Program hosted a lecture by Princeton Professor Keith Whittington on his new book, *Speak Freely: Why Universities Must Defend Free Speech* and held a faculty-alumni seminar on the same subject. The program will host an undergraduate student seminar on “Free Speech and the Ends of the University” later this month.

After the Department of Justice panels, there will be a conversation between Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and Senate Education Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.). Nadine Strossen, John Marshall Harlan II Professor of Law, New York Law School & Former President, American Civil Liberties Union, will give the keynote address.

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If you would like more information about this topic or for interview requests, please contact Sarah Joyce at 574-631-5351.