

Inaugural NYC Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution



Fred T. Korematsu was a national civil rights hero. In 1942, at the age of 23, he refused to go to the government's incarceration camps for Japanese Americans. After he was arrested and convicted of defying the government's order, he appealed his case all the way to the Supreme Court. In 1944, the Supreme Court ruled against him, arguing that the incarceration was justified due to military necessity.

In 1983, Prof. Peter Irons, a legal historian, together with researcher Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, discovered key documents that government intelligence agencies had hidden from the Supreme Court in 1944. The documents consistently showed that Japanese Americans had committed no acts of treason to justify mass incarceration. With this new evidence, a pro-bono legal team that included the Asian Law Caucus re-opened Korematsu's 40-year-old case on the basis of government misconduct. On November 10, 1983, Korematsu's conviction was overturned in a federal court in San Francisco. It was a pivotal moment in civil rights history.

Korematsu remained an activist throughout his life. In 1998, he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Bill Clinton.

"Stand Up for What is Right"- Fred Korematsu

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

7:00 - 8:30 PM

**NYU Cantor Film Center, Theater 200
36 East 8th Street, New York**

Speakers to include:

- Karen Korematsu of the Korematsu Institute
- New York City Councilman Danny Dromm
- The ASAP Youth of Coalition for Asian American Children and Families

Followed by a panel on civil liberties with:

Rocky Chin, Esq. (moderator); Dr. Debbie Almontaser, President of Muslim Community Network; Julie Azuma, Former NY Day of Remembrance Co-Chair; Albert Cahn (CAIR), Councilman Danny Dromm

Co-sponsors:

Asian/Pacific/American Institute at NYU, New York Day of Remembrance Committee (DOR), Japanese American Citizen's League-NY Chapter, Fred T. Korematsu Institute, APALSA at NYU Law School, Japanese American Association, Japanese Americans/Japanese in America, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Coalition for Asian American Children & Families, Asian American Bar Assn., Queens Community House, Asian American Federation, Center for Constitutional Rights, Japanese American National Museum
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