



NEWS RELEASE
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**ABOTA HONORS DEAN ERWIN CHEMERINSKY WITH GEORGE WYTHER
AWARD**

SAN DIEGO (January 14, 2017) — The American Board of Trial Advocates presented its first George Wythe Award to noted Constitutional professor Erwin Chemerinsky at the National Board Meeting on Jan. 14, 2017. This award, named for an instrumental framer of the Constitution, recognizes distinguished and exceptional instruction in Constitutional law and furthering the right to trial by jury.

Chemerinsky is the founding Dean and Distinguished Professor of Law at University of California, Irvine School of Law. Mark P. Robinson, Jr., 2014 ABOTA National President, presented the award to Chemerinsky, describing him the best Constitutional law professor in the United States.

Mr. Robinson spoke about Dean Chemerinsky's career, his commitment to Constitutional law, and his work to promote civics education to high school students and teachers. He was a featured speaker the ABOTA Foundation's inaugural National Teacher's Law School, held at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia in September 2016.

"ABOTA is such an important organization now more than ever," Dean Chemerinsky said. "ABOTA knows more than anyone that the jury trial is vanishing. Courthouse doors are being closed. Arbitration clauses are increasingly ubiquitous. Twice in the last two days people have told me doctors have said to them that they could not be treated unless they sign an arbitration agreement. Employment contracts have it. Consumer contracts have it."

He added that civics education is the key to teach our youth about the Seventh Amendment and all of the values of the Constitution.

Dean Chemerinsky was the Alston and Bird Professor of Law and Political Science at Duke University from 2004-2008, and before that was a professor at the University of Southern California Law School from 1983-2004. He also has taught at DePaul College of Law and UCLA Law School. He is the author of 10 books, including his most recent,

“Closing the Courthouse Door: How Your Constitutional Rights Became Unenforceable,” which was released in January 2017.

George Wythe (1726-1806) was a noted scholar, respected lawyer, and mentor to the likes of Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall. Wythe was the nation’s first college law professor and the first Virginia signer of the Declaration of Independence. His contributions to law, the framing of the federal Constitution, and to education render him an exceptional namesake for this award dedicated to Constitutional law educators.

ABOUT ABOTA:

Founded in 1958, ABOTA is a membership organization of more than 7,600 civil trial attorneys who have been invited to join because of their outstanding trial skills, integrity and civility in the courtroom. ABOTA members are almost evenly divided between plaintiff and defense attorneys. The ABOTA Foundation is the educational arm of the American Board of Trial Advocates. The Foundation’s mission is to educate young Americans about the right to trial by jury and other constitutional liberties. The ABOTA Foundation has created the *Justice by the People* curriculum, the James Otis Constitution Day Lectures, and the Teachers Law School. The Foundation is also a lead sponsor of the National High School Mock Trial Championship and has partnerships with leading civic education organizations.

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