

Constitution Day!
From Santa Clara County to Citizens United:
The Constitution and Corporate Personhood



Monday, September 19th, 11:30-1:00, MLK 225/229

In 1887, here in Santa Clara County, a dispute with the Southern Pacific Railroad led to an interpretation of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution that changed the way we think about corporate personhood. More recently, the dispute between Citizens United, a conservative non-profit, and the Federal Elections Commission brought the 1st Amendment into the debate over corporations as legal persons. A panel of public intellectuals will discuss the background issues, the events and the implications of these disputes. What were the actual social and legal events of 1887 and 2010? What would those who wrote and enacted the Constitution have thought? What are the implications of corporate personhood for a constitutionally-created democracy?

Moderator: **Mark McKenna**, Acting Director of Global Studies

Panelists: **Glen Gendzel**, Associate Professor, History, San Jose State University

Eric M. Lightman, Santa Clara University School of Law, J.D. Candidate and American Constitution Society President

Kenneth Peter, Professor Political Science, San Jose State University

Roberto Gonzalez, Associate Professor of Anthropology, San Jose State University

Refreshments Served 11:30-12:00

Panel discussion 12:00-1:00

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