

(Ref. 02 SMCM 226)

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St. Mary's College of Maryland
at Historic St. Mary's City

National Security and Civil Liberties Four Judges on Judging

Photos available via e-mail

(St. Mary's City, MD) 22 November – Can individual rights be blindsided in today's atmosphere of national security threats? Can America be a model for the world in this post-September 11th environment?

St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM) and The Center for the Study of Democracy present "*Four Judges on Judging: The State of the American Judicial System*" in the Cole Cinema in the College's Campus Center from **7:30 to 8:30 P.M.** on **Thursday, December 5**. A reception will follow the event. Both events are free and open to the public.

This roundtable discussion includes four distinguished jurists from the federal and state court system, including newly appointed judge Karen H. Abrams of the St. Mary's County Circuit Court. Abrams is the **first female judge** to be appointed to the St. Mary's County Circuit Court. Also part of the panel are Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Columbia and a member of the SMCM Board of Trustees; Judge Peter J. Messitte, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Maryland; and Judge James Kenney of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals and teacher at SMCM. Dr. Susan Grogan, associate professor of political science at SMCM, will moderate. A question and answer session will follow the discussion.

The discussion is part of the Library of Congress Open World Russian Leadership Program that is organized by the Center for the Study of Democracy. Four groups of young Russian leaders have visited St. Mary's County since last July to study the American political and judicial systems.

With roots going back to 1840, St. Mary's College of Maryland is the state's only public honors college, offering the academic excellence of private education with the openness and affordability of public education. St. Mary's students have gained recognition as among the finest students in Maryland higher education.

SMCM is consistently ranked one of the best public liberal arts colleges in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. The Washington Post called St. Mary's College of Maryland "a place to get an Ivy League education at a public school price."

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Founded in 1840 as Maryland's "monument school" commemorating the state's first capital, St. Mary's College of Maryland occupies a distinctive niche in American higher education. Designated Maryland's public honors college in 1992, St. Mary's provides the high-caliber liberal arts education typically associated with prestigious institutions while maintaining the affordability and accessibility of a public college.

- 1675 men and women
- Rated top public honors college by *U.S. News & World Report*
- Selective admissions – SAT average of 1230
- Highly qualified full-time faculty, more than 94% with Ph.D.
- Opportunities for independent student research through the senior thesis, the St. Mary's Project
- Waterfront campus along the St. Mary's River in Southern Maryland
- 2002 ICSA Co-ed Sailing Champions