

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ECONOMICS SCHOLAR TO LECTURE ON PROPERTY RIGHTS

Wichita, KS (September 5, 2008) – Thursday evening, October 30, Dr. Bart J. Wilson, the Donald P. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Economics and Law at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., will lead a community forum entitled “Mine and Thine: Exploring Property Rights and How the Laws of Human Nature Create Prosperity.” The event is open to the public and will take place at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom at 400 West Waterman. Underwritten by the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation, the forum is sponsored by the New York-based Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The evening begins with a reception at 5:30 p.m. followed by Wilson’s presentation. Seating is limited and reservations are required at 316-828-5624 or rsvp@kochind.com.

Wilson’s fields of study include industrial organization and experimental economics. The author of numerous papers and articles, he received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Arizona, and previously served as associate professor of economics at George Mason University. Wilson is noted for his collaborative work with the 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics Winner, Vernon L. Smith.

Since 2005, the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation has partnered with the Gilder Lehrman Institute to underwrite professional development teacher seminars and Saturday Academies for Wichita area schools. According to Susan Addington, community relations manager for the foundation, "It's important for Americans to understand the principles upon which our country was founded. Gilder Lehrman's focus on original source documents and

archives provides a unique opportunity for people to experience our heritage and history, and how they apply in today's world.”

Anthony Napoli, director of education at the Gilder Lehrman Institute, will introduce Wilson. Mr. Napoli, former superintendent of major school systems in New York, has worked extensively on teacher development in the Wichita area schools.

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History promotes the study and love of American history. The Institute serves teachers, students, scholars, and the general public. It helps create history-centered schools, organizes seminars and programs for educators, produces print and electronic publications and traveling exhibitions, sponsors lectures by eminent historians, and administers a History Teacher of the Year Award in every state through its partnership with Preserve America. The Institute also awards the Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and George Washington Book Prizes, and offers fellowships for scholars to work in the Gilder Lehrman Collection. The Institute maintains two websites, www.gilderlehrman.org and the quarterly online journal www.historynow.org.

Established in 1953, the Fred C. and Mary R. Koch Foundation focuses on non-profit organizations that enhance the quality of life in Kansas. The Foundation directs its support toward organizations involved with the arts and art education, environmental stewardship, human services, and education. Fred and Mary Koch, the donors for whom the foundation is named, shared a passion for education and a love of the outdoors. Mary Koch (1907 - 1990), a 1929 graduate of Wellesley College, was widely recognized and known for her contributions to the arts. Fred Koch (1900 - 1967), graduated from MIT in 1922 and co-founded what is now Koch Industries, Inc. in 1940.

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