

State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration's Covert Domestic Spying Program

In a presentation sponsored by the American Constitution Society's Boston Lawyer Chapter, the New England School of Law Student Chapter of the American Constitution Society and the ACLU of Massachusetts, James Risen, the Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for the New York Times and author of the 2006 book *State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration*, will discuss the secret history of the CIA under the presidency of George W. Bush, the origins and scope of the Bush Administration's wiretap program, and the extent to which the war on terrorism has spurred the intelligence community to flout legal conventions at home and abroad.

In his book, *State of War*, Mr. Risen argues that from warrantless wiretapping to secret financial data mining to the CIA's rogue operations, the executive branch has dangerously overreached, repudiated checks and balances on its power, and maintained secrecy even from its allies in Congress. Mr. Risen also describes the current struggle now being fought by the Bush Administration, where the Congress and the Supreme Court are attempting to reign in some of the worst abuses to our civil liberties.

James Risen covers national security for the New York Times. He was a member of the team that won the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting in 2002 for coverage of September 11 and terrorism, and he is the coauthor of *Wrath of Angels: The American Abortion War* and *The Main Enemy: the Inside Story of the CIA's Final Showdown with the KGB*. Mr. Risen lives outside Washington, D.C., with his wife and three sons.

Comments on James Risen's *State of War*:

"Domestic spying, demands for political loyalty in the name of national security, investigating a newspaper's sources: with *State of War*, the Nixonian déjà vu can give a reader whiplash."

-- *The Dallas Morning News*

"Illuminating and disturbing...a monumental job of reporting."

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"Explosive.... James Risen may have become the new Woodward and Bernstein.... Fast paced, quite mesmerizing, colorful, and fascinating."

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"Damning and dismaying.... As a national security reporter for the *New York Times*, Risen has produced some of this era's best journalism on the Central Intelligence Agency and the dysfunctional relationship between the White House and the U.S. spy community.... *State of War* is a welcome reminder that American journalism has a higher purpose than shallow pandering to the lowest pop-cultural denominator. Somewhere, beyond celebrity, there are issues and ideas that matter. James Risen's book is an urgent contribution to the country's common good by a skillful and courageous reporter."

-- *Los Angeles Times*

"An astute look at the clash between two mighty imperatives: preserving liberties and protecting the U.S. against terrorism."

-- *Hartford Courant*

The **American Constitution Society for Law and Policy** ("ACS") is one of the nation's leading progressive legal organizations. Founded in 2001, ACS is comprised of law students, lawyers, scholars, judges, policymakers, activists and other concerned individuals who are working to ensure that the fundamental principles of individual rights and liberties, genuine equality, and access to justice are in their rightful place in American law. The American Constitution Society is a non-partisan, non-profit educational organization.

ACS's nationwide network of **Student Chapters** is fostering a new generation of progressive leaders. Through hundreds of programs each year featuring renowned advocates, scholars and judges addressing a wide range of legal and policy issues, the student chapters educate their members about the critical issues facing our country. Working with **ACS Lawyer Chapters** and the national office, they also provide students with meaningful opportunities for professional development and mentoring, participation in substantive projects, and membership in both a local community and a national network of progressive lawyers. Currently, there are over 155 ACS law school chapters.

ACS also has **Lawyer Chapters** in over 28 locations, including **Boston**. ACS lawyer chapters bring together an expanding grassroots network of lawyers and other professionals spanning from coast to coast. Lawyer chapters offer a local forum to share ideas and debate issues integral to a progressive legal and policy perspective, to develop important professional contacts, and to work together on substantive projects. The lawyer chapters also connect their members with national ACS initiatives, providing them with opportunities to help shape the national debate.

The **ACS Boston Lawyer Chapter** is composed of attorneys in private practice as well as the public sector. The Boston Lawyer Chapter has sponsored numerous events since its launch several years ago, including events on such topics as: de-politicizing the judicial selection process; the rights of Guantánamo detainees; the Roberts nomination and the reshaping of the Supreme Court; discrimination in Federal jury pool selection; the "radicalization" of the Federal judiciary; the Alito nomination and the future of reproductive rights; Representative Barney Frank on the future of progressive politics; new ideas on reforming election procedures; the politics of deportation and the treatment of noncitizens; and the effect of the "War on Terror" on our nation's civil liberties.

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Featuring

James Risen

Reporter for the New York Times
and Winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for
National Reporting

**Thursday, November 8, 2007
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
New England School of Law
154 Stuart Street
Boston, Massachusetts**

*This program is the second installment in the American
Constitution Society Boston Lawyer Chapter's two-part series on
the effect of the "War on Terror" upon our nation's civil liberties.*

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