

Invitation to a lecture

Freedom 250: From Courtroom to Constitution—John Adams and the Foundations of the Rule of Law



The Faculty of Law in Rijeka, in cooperation with the Embassy of the United States of America in Zagreb, presents a lecture within the framework of their academic and educational cooperation.

Place: American Corner Rijeka, City Library Rijeka (GKR – Gradska knjižnica Rijeka), ArtKvart

Time: Thursday, 23 April 2026, 11 h.



Lecturer:

**Mr. KEVIN PETER
CURRAN**
**Assistant Attaché
and Vice Consul**

Outline

1. Begin with the Boston Massacre in 1770 and Adams' defense which roots itself in English tradition. a. Sidney Algernon. b. St. Thomas More.
2. The codification of laws and checks and balances. In line with Adams' concerns on mob justice and corruption. a. Which he saw as a threat even at time of massacre. b. Mercy Otis Warren and the fear of tyranny.
3. The Massachusetts constitution as a basis for the American constitution. a. Failure of Articles of Confederation. b. Adams' own failure to follow his principles in some cases (i.e. Alien and Sedition Acts).

Students interested in attending should register

with Assistant Klara Babić, at klara.babic@uniri.hr by Tuesday, 21 April 2026.