

THE CONSTITUTION PROJECT



Safeguarding Liberty, Justice & the Rule of Law

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TCP Condemns Violation of Attorney Client Privilege for Gitmo Detainees

WASHINGTON, D.C -- Virginia Sloan, president of The Constitution Project, offered the following comment on reports that Marine Col. J.P. Colwell, the chief defense counsel for the Guantanamo military commission system, has ordered the attorneys under his command not to comply with rules issued by the commander of the Guantanamo Bay detention center that require officials to review mail the lawyers send to their clients:

"We applaud Col. Colwell for his courage in opposing this misguided policy. The right to counsel, guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment, is a fundamental constitutional right and a bedrock of our American system of justice. The Constitution Project has long advocated for policies to safeguard this fundamental right. Threatening the attorney-client privilege erodes the right to counsel by undermining trust and jeopardizing an attorney's ability to effectively prepare and argue his or her case. We condemn the Department of Defense for interfering with these rights through policies that inhibit the ability of counsel to confer freely with their clients, the Guantanamo detainees. We urge Department officials to reconsider their position."

[About The Constitution Project](#)

Created out the belief that we must cast aside the labels that divide us in order to keep our democracy strong, The Constitution Project (TCP) brings together policy experts and legal practitioners from across the political spectrum to foster consensus-based solutions to the most difficult constitutional challenges of our time. TCP seeks to reform the nation's broken criminal justice system and to strengthen the rule of law through scholarship, advocacy, policy reform and public education initiatives. Established in 1997, TCP is based in Washington, D.C.



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