



PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
October 4, 2016**

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Historian Annette Gordon-Reed to Deliver McCreight Lecture in the Humanities

Charleston, WV – The West Virginia Humanities Council presents Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian Annette Gordon-Reed to give the annual McCreight Lecture in the Humanities on Thursday, October 27, at the University of Charleston. Her talk, “The Enigma of Sally Hemings: Race, Gender, and Slavery at Jefferson’s Monticello,” begins at 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public. The program is sponsored by Bailey and Glasser law firm of Charleston.

Annette Gordon-Reed, a National Humanities Medal recipient, is the Charles Warren Professor of American Legal History at Harvard Law School, a professor of history at Harvard University, and formerly the Harold Vyvyan Harmsworth Visiting Professor of American History at the Queen’s College, University of Oxford in 2014-2015.

Gordon-Reed won the Pulitzer Prize in History and the National Book Award for *The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family* (W.W. Norton, 2009), a subject she had previously written about in *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy* (University Press of Virginia, 1997). She is also the author of *Andrew Johnson* (Times Books/Henry Holt, 2010). Her most recently published book (with Peter S. Onuf) is “*Most Blessed of the Patriarchs*”: *Thomas Jefferson and the Empire of the Imagination* (Liveright Publishing, 2016).

“We are delighted to have a speaker of this caliber for the 2016 McCreight Lecture,” said Ken Sullivan, Executive Director of the Humanities Council. “Professor Gordon-Reed is working a fascinating corner of American history in the Jefferson-Hemings story, and the National Book Award, a Pulitzer and a string of other awards attest to her success. We look forward to hearing what she has to say.”

Her additional honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship in the humanities, a MacArthur Fellowship, a fellowship from the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library, and the Woman of Power & Influence Award from the National Organization for Women in New York City. Gordon-Reed was elected a

fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2011 and is a member of the Academy's Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The McCreight Lecture is a program of the West Virginia Humanities Council and also serves as a kick-off event for the West Virginia Book Festival that will be held October 28-29 at the Charleston Civic Center. The Humanities Council is a Charter Presenter of the Book Festival.

For more information contact the Humanities Council at 304-346-8500 or visit www.wvhumanities.org.

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