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**Capitol Crime, the Antiques Road Show  
and a very successful Sting Operation:  
“NC’s Fight for the Bill of Rights”**

*The odyssey of North Carolina’s ‘original’ copy of the Bill of Rights*

*Thursday, September 11- Free!  
Tryon Palace Visitor Center Auditorium*

(NEW BERN, NC) ---- Join us for an exciting first-hand account of the dramatic journey and recovery of North Carolina’s original ‘copy’ of the Bill of Rights on Thursday, September 11 at 7 p.m. in a free lecture at the Tryon Palace Visitor Center auditorium. Karen Blum, Assistant Attorney General with the North Carolina Department of Justice, represented NC in the recovery of the document, will trace its dramatic journey from 1787 to 2008.

Blum’s presentation takes us on a journey going back to the proposal by Congress and its transmittal to North Carolina by George Washington in 1789, to its theft by a Union soldier during the Civil War and subsequent recovery by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2003.

She will also include information on several of the methods used to identify the Bill of Rights as the original “copy” transmitted by President Washington to North Carolina.

“I was asked to work on the Bill of Rights case(s) in about May 2003,” Ms. Blum said when asked how long she had been working on the recovery. “In addition to the Bill of Rights, I have helped recover several out-of-custody public records such as an April 18, 1777 message from the House of Commons to the Senate nominating governor, secretary of state and council of state; January 7, 1861

proposed resolution calling for convention to consider secession; May 23, 1861 letter from Jefferson Davis to the governor regarding machinery for armaments; Confederate battle flag of the 18<sup>th</sup> NC, captured at Petersburg on April 2, 1865, returned by the War Department in 1905, and stolen from the NC Museum of History sometime in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

**Graduating from NC Central University's School of Law in 2001, Karen Blum was a judicial law clerk for 16 months at the North Carolina Court of Appeals (2001-02) before moving to the Attorney General's Office in November 2002. ###**

Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens, located in New Bern, N.C., is an agency of the division of State Historic Sites, N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, a state agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of North Carolina's arts, history, and culture through such programs as "Telling our Stories," a yearlong celebration that showcases North Carolina's arts, heritage, and cultural life. For more information, visit [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com)

Buildings currently open to the public include the reconstructed Tryon Palace, the John Wright Stanly House, the Robert Hay House and the New Bern Academy Museum. The visitor center and the first floor of Tryon Palace are accessible to visitors with disabilities. For directions and further information about special events, programs or group tours, phone 800-767-1560 or 252-514-4900 or check our web site: <http://www.tryonpalace.org/>

