



CONSTITUTIONAL POLICING

Public acceptance police authority is largely due to the perception of fairness and impartiality in how a law enforcement agency interacts with its constituents. Most of the tension between the public and the police is inversely proportional to the level of trust between the citizens and the police. This trust is built or destroyed by one main factor: the degree to which officers adhere to the principles of the United States Constitution. The constitution is a police officer's playbook. Law enforcement officers swear an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution and to bear true faith and allegiance to the same. It is a sacred trust. Police officers are the constitution in action in the lives of the public they serve. The men and women who bear the badge of law enforcement are the constitution personified. The citizens' perception of how and whether the constitution works in their lives is due in large part to their interactions with the police. It is therefore vitally important we know and understand the principles and practices that make up the constitution. We are its agents. Unfortunately, many police officers only understand the constitution on a relatively superficial level. This course seeks to deepen that understanding.

Throughout the course of this class, the student will:

- Describe how the key elements of the constitution and related case law affects a police officer's daily work
- Identify the key elements of the fourth, fifth, and fourteenth amendments and discuss practical applications of each
- Identify resources that will help them become more well-versed in constitutional law
- Identify how self-awareness of implicit bias and blind spots is critical in assuring their ability to operate impartially and fairly
- Discuss the elements of due process
- Describe how group identity and behavior can unconsciously lead to biased based practices

To schedule this seminar, email Jesse Williams at jesse@signettraining.com