



D E N S H Ō

The Japanese American Legacy Project

PRESS RELEASE

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**AUTHOR ERIC MULLER SPEAKS ON
*AMERICAN INQUISITION:
THE HUNT FOR JAPANESE AMERICAN DISLOYALTY IN WORLD WAR II***

Seattle, November 26, 2007 – Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project presents legal scholar Eric Muller on Sunday, December 9, 2:00 p.m., at the University of Washington Ethnic Cultural Center, 3940 Brooklyn Avenue NE. Muller will speak about his most recent book, *American Inquisition: The Hunt for Japanese American Disloyalty in World War II* (North Carolina University Press). This event is free and open to the public. No tickets are required, and seats are unreserved.

After the U.S. government forced 120,000 Japanese Americans into internment camps in 1942 without charge or trial, it created administrative tribunals to pass judgment on who was loyal and who was disloyal. In *American Inquisition*, Muller relates the story of exactly how military and civilian bureaucrats judged tens of thousands of American citizens of Japanese descent during the war.

Some citizens were deemed loyal and were freed, but one in four was declared disloyal to America and condemned to repressive segregation in the camps or barred from war-related jobs. Using cultural and religious affiliations as indicators of Americans' loyalties, the far-reaching bureaucratic decisions reflected the agendas of the agencies that performed them rather than the actual allegiances or threats posed by the citizens being judged, Muller explains.

American Inquisition is the only study of the Japanese American internment to examine the complex inner workings of the most draconian system of loyalty screening that the American government has ever deployed against its own citizens. Former transportation secretary Norman Mineta, who was held in one of the detention camps as a child, says, "At last, Eric Muller shines new light on the U.S. government's failed attempt to define 'loyalty' among a supposed 'enemy race' during wartime...an important historical lesson we must never forget and an injustice we must never repeat."

Eric Muller is a professor of law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is author of *Free to Die for Their Country: The Story of Japanese American Draft Resisters in World War II* (2003). Books will be sold by University Book Store, and a book signing will follow the talk.

For more information: densho.org/about/events/2007/mullerbookreading.

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