

# *The 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment.*

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There may be no more important Amendment than the 7<sup>th</sup>, particularly when coupled with the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. While various legal entities, as evidently upheld by the courts, claim that the 7<sup>th</sup> refers only to federal courts, I have no doubt the founders intended a broader application. Many of those same legal entities claim the same thing for the 6<sup>th</sup> but it seems to me to be difficult to get around the fact that the 6<sup>th</sup> specifically places a requirement upon the individual states. (Please note that I am NOT an attorney and these considerations should be taken as a political perspective, not a legal one.) Certainly the sequence of the due process clause of the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the individual protection of a speedy fair public trial “by an impartial jury in the State and district wherein the trial shall have been committed,” and the “right to a trial by jury shall be preserved” as declared by the 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment is, to me, the ultimate final protection of the individual from an overbearing and obtrusive Government. This is in no way intended to take anything away from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment by which all other rights enumerated in the Constitution are ultimately protected including the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment which ensures the right to freely speak a gospel message (aka Phil Robertson of Duck Dynasty fame).

While it is usually proclaimed that the American Revolution was fought because of “taxation without representation” (which certainly was a mitigating factor), a careful reading of the Declaration of Independence will reveal that the largest body of evidence against the King was the suspension of laws and due process. A primary element sparking the American Revolution was the suspension of trials by juries by King George III. In spite of mishaps and false convictions and the like within the present system of jurisprudence, the founders, I am sure, saw the 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> Amendments as critical to the preservation of the constitutionally protected unalienable rights of each and every U.S. citizen.

Those of us in the Constitution Party, by and large, are well aware that all aspects of the Constitution and the protected rights therein are under a constant barrage of attacks by the duopoly of Democrats and Republicans. While no doubt President Obama has openly declared war on the Constitution and is working feverishly to destroy almost every individual right and protection, it was the complicit Republicans that brought us the Patriot Act, the Department of Homeland Security, the TSA, the NSA, and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) with their continued and ever increasing usurpation of all individual rights and freedoms in the name of National Security for all citizens.

As declared by the liberal ACLU on their website, “In December 2011, President Obama signed the 2012 NDAA, codifying indefinite military detention (of U.S. Citizens) without charge or trial into law for the first time in American history. The NDAA's dangerous detention provisions would authorize the president — and all future presidents — to order the military to pick up and indefinitely imprison (U.S. Citizens) captured anywhere in the world, far from any battlefield. Under the Bush administration, similar claims of worldwide detention authority were used to hold even a U.S. citizen detained on U.S. soil in military custody, and many in Congress now assert that the NDAA should be used in the same way again. The ACLU believes that any military detention of American citizens or others within the United States is unconstitutional and illegal, including under the NDAA.

I urge anyone reading this to join the Constitution Party of your state and help elect responsible Constitution Party legislators at all levels that will uphold and defend the Constitution. Let's reverse these unconscionable attacks on our constitutionally protected liberties and rights.