

## STRAIGHT FROM THE HEADLINES

### Toobin Visits Atlanta to Discuss "The Oath"

BY MARCI MILLER

**Y**OU SEE HIM NIGHT AFTER NIGHT on CNN...usually as part of the panel of talking heads discussing today's top legal and political stories. But Jeffrey Toobin always seems to be the standout expert with his no-nonsense and intelligent approach to the day's events. And now CNN's senior legal analyst is coming to Atlanta as one of the many high-profile speakers and guests attending the 21st annual Book Festival of the MJCCA (Other heavy weights attending this year's event includes Scott Turow, Pat Conroy, Alan Dershowitz and many more).

Toobin will be discussing his book, *THE OATH*, which takes an in-depth look at the relationship between the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice John Roberts, and the Obama Administration. And when looking for subject matter, Toobin did not have to go any further than the courts 5-4 ruling in 2012 to uphold the Affordable Care Act, now the source of so much contention between the Republican and Democratic parties.

No stranger to political and legal upheaval, Jeffrey Toobin, a Harvard Law Graduate, joined CNN from ABC News, where, during his six-year tenure as a legal analyst, he provided analysis on the nation's most provocative and high profile cases, including the O.J. Simpson civil trial and the Kenneth Starr investigation of the Clinton White House. Toobin received a 2001 Emmy Award for his coverage of the Elian Gonzales custody saga. Toobin is a staff writer at *The New Yorker* and has been covering legal affairs for the magazine since 1993. *The Oath* marks the fifth book for this accomplished author. We asked Mr. Toobin to tell us a little about his book and recent events in Washington:

*In "The Oath" you explore the relationship between Chief Justice John Roberts and Barack Obama - you say that Roberts is more the "apostle of change" than Obama...can you explain what you mean?*

Chief Justice Roberts is trying to make dramatic changes in constitutional law, while Obama has shown himself to be committed to more gradual changes.



*How hard was it to gain access to the judges and their clerks when writing this book?*

Difficult. Fortunately, most of them know me in person or by reputation by now - but that doesn't mean they all agreed to speak to me.

*How surprising was it for Judge Roberts to rule with the four more liberal members of the court to uphold the Affordable Care Act?*

Stunning, astonishing, amazing. I'm still in shock.

*And speaking of Obamacare, the roll out so far has had so many problems. It's only been a few weeks, but can they rebound and do you think it will succeed?*

Obamacare will be around for decades. No one remembers the first weeks of Medicare. If it works, it'll be a triumph. If it doesn't, it will be a disaster. The substance matters more than the politics.

*It's so disheartening for regular Americans to see all the bickering in Washington...what do we do to get through these troubled times?*

It's not bipartisan bickering. It was a conscious decision by Republicans to shut down the government. That's an important distinction.

*During the government shutdown, you were on CNN one night and just looked exasperated when various lawmakers came on the show to state their case...how do you do listen to these partisan points of view night after night?*

I hate listening to canned talking points, which is most of what you get from politicians from both sides. I don't find interviewing them very rewarding.

*The Oath: The Obama White House and The Supreme Court featuring an appearance by Jeffrey Toobin will take place on Thursday, November 7 from 7:30pm - 9:30pm at MJCCA-Zaban Park located at 5342 Tilly Mill Road in Dunwoody. The Book Festival of the MJCCA will take place November 2 - 17, 2013. For more information on the festival or to purchase tickets, visit [atlantajcc.org](http://atlantajcc.org).*