

Justice Daneal Tacha
President, American Inns of Court

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...Most events of historical significance are explained by the confluence of time, place, and shared understanding of compelling circumstances. So it was that those adventurers who reached the shores of Virginia 400 years ago and brought with them a charter, that contained the promise that at that time, in this new place, they would enjoy the rights, franchises and privileges that they had enjoyed as English people. They sparked a four-century long impulse toward constitutionalism, nation building and understandings of sovereignty. They were responding to a shared understanding of circumstances that has lasted through these four centuries.

So, it is that we have gathered...400 years later, to reflect upon that history, to celebrate the achievements, to confront honestly some of the failures, including those displaced and those displayed, and to consider the circumstances of our own time.