THE RIGHT TO CONFRONT ONE’S ACCUSERS:
How Acts 25:16 Has Figured in U.S. Constitutional Law

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Withers Hall, Room 140
Map: http://www.ncsu.edu/campus_map/north.htm

All are welcome

Abstract
In Acts 25:16, Luke the evangelist, reporting the trial of St. Paul, portrays the Roman procurator Festus asserting two fundamental Roman civic rights: the right to a trial and the right to confront one’s accusers “face to face.” This lecture will explore how this New Testament text has figured in the formulation of the so-called “Confrontation Clause” found in the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and in recent controversial U.S. court cases such as Coy v. Iowa. Some questions to be explored: Was the right to confront one’s accusers an established precept in ancient Roman law? How does St. Luke’s formulation of this right compare with that of other Greek and Roman authors?

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