

George William  
Van Cleve

MAKING A NEW  
AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

# MAKING A NEW AMERICAN CONSTITUTION

George William Van Cleve

FOREWORD BY SAMFORD K. LEVINSON

"Making a New American Constitution is not only a book of genuine scholarship; it is, at least as importantly, an act of high citizenship. George Van Cleve has made an important contribution to our understanding of the Constitution's very nature and governing forces. As he shows in critical detail, our situation is dire indeed. Van Cleve addresses all aspects of constitutionalism, including, crucially, structural features of the Constitution. He makes specific suggestions as to how we might amend the Constitution in order to make it suitable for the 21st century. He concludes directly the book is that few anyone who seriously discusses a new constitutional convention, and explains how one might really come about. His offer is stirring call to the kind of active citizenship that is required of all of us. I hope this book gets the wide readership it deserves and provides widespread public discussion."

—Samford K. Levinson, General Counsel, University of Texas Law School & Professor of Government, University of Texas author of *The Undemocratic Constitution*

"George William Van Cleve has produced a wide-ranging demonstration of the ways in which economic inequality is undermining constitutional democracy. A thoughtful analysis of how the Constitution of the United States is complicit in our increasing democratic deficits, and the more detailed blueprint for making a new constitutional convention work that comes in the growing threat are questioning America's readiness for the Constitution. *Making a New American Constitution* leaves a field, accessible, scholarly and passionate challenge to the complacency about American political economy. As such as a constitutionalism, a call to American capacity to put our political regime in order that Van Cleve currently recognizes too often drives American constitutional thinking on the right, center and left. A new American constitution is among medicines. *Making a New American Constitution* provides convincing proof that the patient is suffering from a serious debilitating illness."

—Mark A. Gruber, University System of Maryland/Regent Professor and author of *A New Architecture to American Constitutionalism*

"*Making a New American Constitution* is a timely and compelling call for civic mobilization to achieve urgent needed constitutional reform. The founding fathers' great experiment in republicanism will flourish no longer in the crisis of our own times by constructing a new, much more perfect, nation-making union. George Van Cleve shows us how we can create an essential constitutional 'groundthought' that will secure our future as a great and free self-governing people."

—Peter B. Onuf, Thomas Jefferson Professor of History Emeritus, University of Virginia



George William Van Cleve is David's Hasting Scholar, Georgetown University Law Center, Ph.D., University of Virginia J.D., Harvard Law School



ISBN 978-1-71154-076-0

9 781711 540760

