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## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE of PENNSYLVANIA COURTS

### News for Immediate Release

Oct. 6, 2020

#### Statement of Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice David N. Wecht

**HARRISBURG** — Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice David N. Wecht today released the following statement:

“Just over 265 years ago, John Marshall was born. Destined to become our nation’s greatest Chief Justice, he championed our Founders’ design that the protection of our liberties, and the rule of law itself, rely upon an independent judiciary.

“It is emphatically the duty of the Judicial Department”, Chief Justice Marshall wrote in Marbury v. Madison, “to say what the law is.” In United States v. Peters, Chief Justice Marshall announced: “If the legislatures of the several states may, at will, annul the judgments of the courts of the united States, and destroy the rights acquired under those judgments, the Constitution itself becomes a solemn mockery; and the nation is deprived of the means of enforcing its law by the instrumentality of its own tribunals.

“In the United States of America, we do not impeach judges with whose opinions we disagree. We are a nation of laws, not a nation of mobs. When anyone, including legislators, attempts to intimidate our judges, they threaten our liberties and the rule of law. It is ironic that here in Pennsylvania, the cradle of our nation’s liberty, some would forget our history and the tradition of judicial independence that has safeguarded our people’s freedoms.”

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