

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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**LEARN ABOUT THE NATION'S FOURTH AND LONGEST-SERVING CHIEF JUSTICE, JOHN MARSHALL,
IN NEW NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER EXHIBIT**

***Original exhibit, John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice, highlights Marshall's career,
character, and constitutional legacy***

Exhibit opens May 25, 2017

Philadelphia, PA (May 3, 2017) – The National Constitution Center, in partnership with The John Marshall Foundation, is opening ***John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice***, an exhibit that explores the life of the nation's fourth and longest-serving chief justice. Through rare artifacts, personal items, and priceless documents, this exhibit tells the story of John Marshall's influential role in the early republic from his beginnings as a soldier during the American Revolution to his leadership that transformed the United States Supreme Court. The exhibit will open to the public Thursday, May 25, and run through December 31, 2017.

"Chief Justice John Marshall is one of the most significant figures in constitutional history, and we are thrilled to work with The John Marshall Foundation to bring his career, character, and constitutional legacy to life for visitors of all ages," said Jeffrey Rosen, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center. "Marshall's commitment to civility and reasoned compromise remains a model of constitutional leadership, promoting unanimity among his fellow justices and building up the bipartisan legitimacy of the Supreme Court. We hope that visitors walk away from the exhibit inspired by his example and eager to learn more about his constitutional legacy."

"John Marshall is the father of the federal judiciary and of American constitutional law. His understanding of the nature of the Union is the bridge that brought our young nation from Washington to Lincoln," said Kevin Walsh, exhibit curator and board member of The John Marshall Foundation. "This exhibit takes visitors beyond the judicial robe. It showcases the flesh-and-blood patriot who not only endured Valley Forge with George Washington and Alexander Hamilton but also implemented their shared vision over the first few decades of the early Republic."

John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice explores the influential career of John Marshall during the early years of a new nation. Visitors will learn about Marshall's experience as a soldier in the American Revolution, his early career as a leading lawyer in Virginia, including his role as a key supporter of the U.S. Constitution during the Virginia ratifying convention. Marshall's career in national politics is highlighted as well, showcasing his tenure in the House of Representatives and his service as President Adams's secretary of state. The exhibit also traces Marshall's constitutional legacy as our nation's fourth chief justice. This includes landmark decisions such as *Marbury v. Madison* and *McCulloch v. Maryland*,

his rivalry with President Thomas Jefferson and other Democratic-Republicans, and his efforts to forge bipartisan consensus and unanimity on the early Supreme Court.

The exhibit showcases nearly 30 historic documents and rare artifacts, including Marshall's traveling desk from the 1797 XYZ Affair (Preservation Virginia), his spectacles (Preservation Virginia), John Adams's nomination of Marshall as chief justice (National Archives), an 1831 portrait of Marshall by Henry Inman (Philadelphia Bar Association), and an autobiographical letter written by Marshall in 1827 (William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan).

Also displayed in *John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice*:

- Marshall's law notebook with doodles of his future wife's name (College of William & Mary)
- Letter from Thomas Jefferson to Marshall showing their strained relationship (Preservation Virginia)
- Letter from Marshall to Alexander Hamilton regarding the election of 1800 (Library of Congress)
- Letter written by James Madison criticizing the *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) decision (The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History)
- Supreme Court decree in *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824) (National Archives)
- Marshall's military pension application (National Archives)

On Wednesday, May 24 at 6 p.m., The John Marshall Foundation will host an exhibit opening reception at the National Constitution Center. If you would like to attend as a member of the press, please contact Merissa Blum at mblum@constitutioncenter.org or 215-409-6645.

Lead sponsors for the exhibit are: **Bank of America, Cozen O'Connor, Pepper Hamilton LLP**, and The **Philadelphia Contributionship**. Additional sponsors are: **Pennsylvania Bar Association** and **Pennsylvania Supreme Court's Commission on Judicial Independence**. The National Constitution Center and The John Marshall Foundation are grateful for these sponsorships.

The National Constitution Center is located at 525 Arch Street on Philadelphia's Independence Mall. The Center is open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and from noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Ticket Information

John Marshall: Patriot, Statesman, Chief Justice, May 25 – December 31, 2017

Included in general admission. **General Admission:** Adults \$14.50; Youth (6-18) \$11; Students w/ID and Seniors \$13. Active military personnel and children ages 5 and under are free.

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](http://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis." As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America's Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources

that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

About The John Marshall Foundation

The John Marshall Foundation inspires commitment to the rule of law and the enterprise of American self-government by educating the public about the life, character, and service of the great Chief Justice. For more information, please call (804) 775-0861 or visit www.johnmarshallfoundation.org.

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