



KEEP OUR REPUBLIC

AN OPEN LETTER FROM AMERICA'S FORMER FEDERAL JUDGES

As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, the role of our federal judiciary faces increasing scrutiny. Our founders envisioned a nation of laws, premised on three separate and coequal branches of government. For nearly two-and-a-half centuries, this structure of our constitutional democracy has served as a beacon of light at home and abroad.

We, as former members of the federal judiciary, care deeply about our Constitution and our Country. While the debate over the metes and bounds of each branch is older than the Republic itself, the need for an independent judiciary, free from coercion, has never been questioned. As Alexander Hamilton reminded his countrymen, “there is no liberty, if the power of judging be not separated from the legislative and executive powers.”

The approaching semiquincentennial is surely a time for reflection on these founding principles, but it is also a time for action. Although we come from different corners of America and have been appointed by Presidents of both parties, we former members of the third branch are ready for our third act.

We pledge not only to keep our Republic, but to strengthen it. To defend the rule of law. To protect the independence of the judiciary. To kindle and inspire an informed citizenry. And to dedicate ourselves to the unending duty of protecting our sacred democracy.

For the light of a democracy is not doused, but its unstoked flames can weaken and become faint. We call on all our former colleagues to join us in tending to our democracy through the Article III Coalition.

Sincerely,

Keep Our Republic's Article III Coalition:

Judge Michael Burrage – Formerly of the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Northern & Western Districts of Oklahoma

Judge Robert J. Cindrich – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania

Judge Andre M. Davis – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland & U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit

Judge Bernice B. Donald – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee & U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

Judge Gary E. Feess – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

Judge Jeremy D. Fogel – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

Judge Royal Furgeson, Jr. – Formerly of the U.S. District Courts for the Western District of Texas & Northern District of Texas

Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas

Judge Irma E. Gonzalez – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California

Judge Andrew J. Guilford – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

Judge Faith S. Hochberg – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

Judge Richard J. Holwell – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

Judge John E. Jones III – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

Judge George H. King – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

Judge Robert B. Kugler – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey & the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court

"A REPUBLIC, IF WE CAN KEEP IT."

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Judge Timothy K. Lewis – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania & U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Judge Beverly B. Martin – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia & U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

Judge John S. Martin – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York

Judge A. Howard Matz – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

Chief Judge Paul R. Michel – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Judge Margaret M. Morrow – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California

Judge Liam O’Grady – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia & the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court

Judge Kathleen M. O’Malley – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio & U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

Judge Stephen M. Orlofsky – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey

Judge Layn R. Phillips – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma

Judge Philip M. Pro – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the District of Nevada

Judge David S. Tatel – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit

Judge John Daniel Tinder – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana & U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Judge Ursula M. Ungaro – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida.

Judge Paul J. Watford – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Judge Diane P. Wood – Formerly of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit

Judge Lee Yeakel – Formerly of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas

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