OUR COURTS: THE BEDROCK OF DEMOCRACY
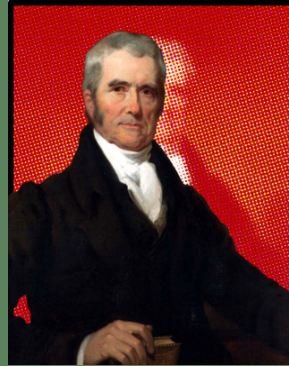
DID YOU KNOW?

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN JAY

THE FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

John Jay was the first Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. He was appointed by President George Washington in 1789. At the time, the Supreme Court only had six justices.

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL

LONGEST-SERVING CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

John Marshall was the longest-serving Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, holding the position for over 34 years (from February 4, 1801 to July 6, 1835).
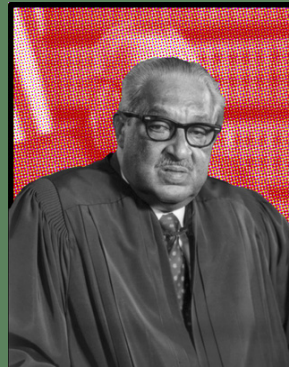
Since 1869, the Court has had one chief justice and eight associate justices, for a total of nine members.

CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN RUTLEDGE

SHORTEST-SERVING CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

John Rutledge was the shortest-serving Chief Justice with a tenure of just 138 days in 1795.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL

THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The Supreme Court became more representative when Thurgood Marshall became the first African American justice in 1967. He served for 24 years and championed equality in his opinions.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

THE FIRST FEMALE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Sandra Day O'Connor was the first woman appointed to the high court. She served as an associate justice from 1981 to 2006.

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR

THE FIRST HISPANIC SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Sonia Sotomayor became the first Hispanic justice to serve on the Supreme Court in 2009.