

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Advocates' Society Defends Independence of the Judiciary

The Advocates' Society was founded in 1963 and represents more than 5,500 leading advocates across Canada. We have noted with concern the recent statements by the President of the United States directed at United States District Court Judge James Robart in the context of the Court's travel ban ruling. Judge Robart is a member of a court of justice entrusted by the United States Constitution with the authority to rule upon the constitutional validity of executive orders. He was nominated for appointment on December 11, 2003 by President George W. Bush and his appointment was confirmed by the United States Senate on June 17, 2004. President Donald J. Trump's reference to Judge Robart as a "so-called judge" is improper, disrespectful and a threat to judicial independence and authority.

The Advocates' Society has had occasion in the past to remind our own politicians that the manifest respect of the executive branch for the independent judiciary is an essential part of the constitutional protections enjoyed by Canadians. On such occasions we were grateful for the support we have received from our colleagues abroad.

For more than two centuries America's constitutional democracy has served as an inspiration for people throughout the world struggling against tyranny, and as a beacon and safe haven for those seeking freedom and a government based upon the Rule of Law.

The United States and Canada share the longest undefended border in the world. We are each other's largest trading partner. We embrace the same basic values of constitutional democracy and judicial independence. Many Canadian advocates have close professional ties to their counterparts in America. Many also represent clients for whom a strong and independent judiciary in both countries is essential. Legal organizations around the world have spoken out plainly against the President's remarks. The Advocates' Society stands firmly with those colleagues, and with people everywhere who have expressly and unequivocally condemned the President's statements directed at Judge Robart.

For more information:

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