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For Immediate Release

Spotlight remains on Nation's Highest Court after Draft Opinion Leak

Washington, D.C., May 6 --- Following the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion to the et Politico, the nation's highest court is coming under increased scrutiny. Chief Justice John Roberts, speaking at a judicial conference in Atlanta on Thursday, called the leak "appalling" and a "betrayal of the confidences of the court."

Chief Justice Roberts, who has presided over the high court for the past 16 years, is no stranger to the spotlight. However, this spotlight may be the brightest yet. The leak has refocused the nation's attention on the contentious issue of abortion and how an upcoming decision has the potential to dramatically impact the future of *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 case that legalized abortion.

"Whether the Court decides to overturn *Roe v. Wade* or not, this leak is a historically unprecedented violation of the deepest and most solemn trust among the Justices and the SCOTUS staff," said United States Presidential Service Center CO-CEO Dr. Joynicole Martinez. "Core to the process of jurisprudence is the space to contemplate and consider the law and its spirit without being bullied or in fear."

During a speech more than a decade ago at Georgetown's law school graduation, Roberts outline his philosophy for the Supreme Court. Recognizing that there will always be divisions on the court, Justice Roberts told these newly-minted law school graduates that the rule of law and the courts benefit from clarity from the bench, saying "The rule of law is strengthened when there is greater coherence and agreement about what the law is." Roberts also told the graduates that divisions on the court "cannot and should not be artificially suppressed."

"We recognize the need for confidentiality as America's highest court makes decisions that align with the spirit and law of our Constitution," said Dr. Martinez. "(We) are grieved by this breach."

While it is still unknown if the final opinion will reflect the draft opinion that was leaked, the USPSC will continue to monitor the events from the Supreme Court and will remain committed to our support of the principles of Democracy and the rule of law.

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