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CHARLES D. LAVINE
Assemblyman 13th District

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Judiciary Committee

July 5, 2022

The Honorable John G. Roberts
The Supreme Court of the United States
One First Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20543

Dear Justice Roberts:

The New York Times' Adam Liptak reports that "the justices have stopped announcing their decisions from the bench, abandoning a tradition that is both ceremonial and illuminating. In the old days, the author of the majority opinion would give a quick and conversational summary of the ruling that could be extremely valuable for a reporter on deadline and by extension, for members of the public trying to understand a decision. More important yet were oral dissents, reserved for decisions that the justices in the minority believed were profoundly mistaken. In ordinary times, one or more of the three liberal justices who dissented in the abortion case would have raised their voices in protest. These days, the court makes do with posting PDF's of its decisions, robbing the occasion of ceremony, drama and insight." <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/03/briefing/supreme-court-behind-scenes.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Having been privileged to practice law in the courtrooms of many of our great federal judges, including Justice Sonya Solomayor, Michael Mukasny and Constance Baker Motley, I appreciate and truly value the unique jurisprudential differences that generate majority and minority opinions.

At a time when public respect for many of our cherished democratic institutions is under fire, I respectfully request that the Court consider reinstating the time-honored tradition of announcing decisions from the bench. This most significant method of communication will increase and enhance public trust and appreciation for our Supreme Court.

Thank you for your consideration respecting this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles Lavine

Cc: pio@supremecourt.gov