



## **Statement of NJSBA President Thomas H. Prol in support of judicial independence**

Judicial independence is fundamental to the mission of the New Jersey State Bar Association, the state's largest organization of judges, lawyers and legal professionals. The impartial role the courts play in protecting the rights of each citizen is a pillar of our democracy.

Everyone has the First Amendment right to discuss or criticize the decisions of a court in resolving a dispute, and perhaps such critique is even more important in the political arena. However, using hostile rhetoric that is unmoored by fact and for the sole purpose of political gain is unacceptable and threatens the justice system. The NJSBA will always speak up when our courts are attacked in the course of political battle.

Judges routinely make difficult decisions. They don't do it based on their whims. Rather, they assess the facts of the case, and consider the Constitution and laws of our states when reaching a determination. Theirs is not an easy job, but it is an essential one that provides a critical and necessary balance in our tripartite system of government. We applaud each and every state and federal judge who works every day to uphold our democracy.