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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR.**  
**TO HEADLINE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT TONIGHT**

BUFFALO, N.Y. – The United States District Court for the Western District of New York is celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Established on May 12, 1900, the district is celebrating its quasiquicentennial throughout 2025, with a variety of events, including tonight’s visit to Buffalo by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.

“Chief Justice Roberts was born in Buffalo and spent his early childhood here, so we claim him as one of our own,” said Chief U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Wolford. “His willingness to join us for our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary makes the celebration all the more special. It’s a testament to Western New York’s rich legal history and the Chief Justice’s commitment to our profession.”

Chief Justice Roberts will participate in an evening program at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, which will include a Fireside Chat with U.S. District Judge Lawrence J. Vilardo, a brief awards recognition, and a dinner. “I have known Chief Justice Roberts for more than 40 years,” said Judge Vilardo. “I have great respect for him, and I’m thrilled that he is joining us to celebrate our anniversary.”

Tonight’s Anniversary Dinner is just one of many events and programs taking place throughout the year. Of particular note is the Civic Outreach Program, which placed practicing lawyers in high schools across the district to teach seniors about the First Amendment. Students were engaged in the classroom and participated in a moot court and essay contest, the winners of which will be recognized tonight at the Anniversary Dinner.

District courts are the trial courts of the federal judiciary, hearing both civil and criminal cases. The United States District Court for the Western District of New York has courthouses in Buffalo and Rochester, and serves the 17 surrounding counties: Allegany; Cattaraugus; Chautauqua; Chemung; Erie; Genesee; Livingston; Monroe; Niagara; Ontario; Orleans; Schuyler; Seneca; Steuben; Wayne; Wyoming; and Yates.

The district is one of the busiest in the country and has been home to numerous cases of national significance, including those involving the 1971 Attica Prison Riot, the contamination of the Love Canal area, the desegregation of the Buffalo Public Schools, the prosecution of the Lackawanna Six terrorist cell, and the sniper assassination of a Buffalo-area abortion provider.

“I extend my sincere appreciation to Chief Justice Roberts and to everyone who has been and will be a part of our anniversary events throughout the year, celebrating the rich history of our District,” said Chief Judge Wolford.

For more information, please visit [the 125th Anniversary](#) website, which includes video tributes, written testimonials, old photographs, and historical documents.

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