



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Lawyers' Group Warns the Supreme Court's
Dobbs Standard Threatens Civil and Human Rights**

BOSTON — The nonpartisan organization, **Lawyers Defending American Democracy** (LDAD) – composed of distinguished lawyers and professors, Constitutional law experts, current and former bar association leaders, and state and federal judges — today released a [Statement](#) analyzing the threat posed by the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

The [Statement](#) addresses the dangers of the majority's holding that substantive rights under the 14th Amendment **that are not specifically mentioned in the Constitution must be “*deeply rooted in this Nation's history and tradition.*”**

As LDAD's Statement notes, such an analysis of this Nation's history and traditions takes us in a dire direction. The Statement observes that such history and traditions include, for example, genocide and theft of property against Native Americans, slavery, Jim Crow laws, Chinese exclusion laws, and violence against women, among other forms of discrimination and exclusion.

Nancy Gertner, a Retired Federal District Court Judge and Senior Lecturer at Harvard Law School states:

“The majority's requirement that 14th Amendment substantive due process rights depend on deep roots in our nation's history charts a dangerous course for the future. Justice Thomas' concurring opinion underscores this by inviting the next round of cases that can inevitably lead to the elimination of many hard-won rights over the past half century. The stunning impacts from *Dobbs* on women's rights, privacy, and freedom have already been acutely felt across the country, as trigger laws and other efforts to criminalize certain aspects of reproductive care have resulted in chaos and fear.”

About Lawyers Defending American Democracy

Founded in 2019, Lawyers Defending American Democracy (LDAD) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to fostering adherence to the protection of the Constitution and the rule of law. LDAD has issued a variety of Open Letters and Statements calling for adherence by public officials to the rule of law and encouraging fellow lawyers, leaders of bar associations, and the legal academy to join in speaking out against threats to democracy. LDAD has also filed disciplinary complaints against lawyers who have violated their oath to protect the Constitution, for example, Rudolph Giuliani, Jeffrey Clark, Kenneth Paxton, and John Eastman. *All letters, statements and briefs are available at www.LDAD.org.*

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