chat with several recent clerks, including Elizabeth Wilkins (senior counsel for the Attorney General of DC and former clerk to Justice Kagan), Ishan Bhabha (attorney at Jenner & Block and former clerk for Justice Kennedy), Jenn Bandy (attorney at Kirkland & Ellis and former clerk to Justice Thomas), Kwaku Akowuah (attorney at Sidley Austin and former clerk for Justice Breyer) and Haley Proctor (attorney at Cooper & Kirk and former clerk for Justice Thomas).

The week-long program culminated in a visit to the Supreme Court to hear decisions handed down. Participants gushed about the lasting impression that this Institute will have on them and their teaching. The opportunity to hear decisions at the Supreme Court was described as a particularly powerful experience. One participant mentioned that “The ability to work/heard from experts in the field-- to see the Supreme Court in action and have a reception at the court-- it felt like once in a lifetime experience for anyone. But to be able to bring this back into the classroom is truly incredible.”

With the collaboration and financial support of the Supreme Court Historical Society, the Supreme Court Summer Institute has become one of the nation’s leading professional development experiences for teachers--enriching, reputable, and effective. This year’s participants will enhance the educational experiences of thousands of students all over the country, developing the next generation of knowledgeable and active citizens!

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**Society Acquires Portrait of Justice Henry Baldwin**

By Maya Foo*

Earlier this year, the SCJIS acquired a portrait of Associate Justice Henry Baldwin, who served on the Court from 1830 to 1844. A Connecticut native, Baldwin graduated from Yale at the age of seventeen and later opened his own successful law firm in Pittsburgh. Active in the community as a businessman and politician, he was given the nickname the “Pride of Pittsburgh” and was elected to the House of Representatives in 1816. In the House, Baldwin defended General Andrew Jackson’s military decisions in the First Seminole War (1817-1818) and was a staunch supporter of the general when he ran for President a decade later.

As President, Jackson nominated Baldwin to the Supreme Court on January 4, 1830, and he was confirmed by the Senate two days later. Baldwin joined the Supreme Court during the era of Chief Justice John Marshall, a period known for a cohesive Bench which announced many unanimous decisions. Baldwin apparently had ideological differences with the other Justices from the start and soon informed the President that he wanted to resign. During his first term he dissented seven times, likely a record for a junior Justice. In 1832, he suffered a mental breakdown possibly due to stress over financial investments and he missed the subsequent term, but did not resign and returned to the Court in 1834.

Baldwin’s increasingly defiant behavior and angry exchanges with the other Justices fractured the previously tranquil nature of the Marshall Court. He often argued with Justice Joseph Story, who wrote in a letter that Baldwin’s opinions “are so utterly wrong in principle and authority, that I am sure he cannot be sane. And indeed, the only charitable view which I can take of any of his conduct is that he is partially deranged at all times.” Towards the end of his life, continued poor financial investments put the Justice heavily into debt. He died in poverty in 1844—just two years after this portrait was painted—and his friends were forced to pay for his funeral.

*Maya Foo, Exhibition’s Coordinator Office of the Curator

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*Justice Henry Baldwin, 1842, George D’Almaine, Oil on canvas*