

Proclamation

*IN HONOR OF
JUDGE JOHN J. THOMAS.*

- WHEREAS, Judge John J. Thomas has served as a United States Bankruptcy Judge in the Middle District of Pennsylvania since 1992 and has served as Chief Judge from 2002 through 2009; and
- WHEREAS, Judge Thomas was the driving force behind the creation of the Middle District Bankruptcy Bar Association (MDBBA), which provides educational opportunities for bankruptcy attorneys and which facilitates bench-bar communications; and
- WHEREAS, Judge Thomas has been a consistent champion of pro bono legal service throughout his career, has led efforts to create the MDBBA Pro Bono Referral Program, allowing access to bankruptcy and debt relief for those who could not otherwise afford it, and has personally demonstrated his commitment to the program by extending his appreciation to participating attorneys on a regular basis; and
- WHEREAS, Judge Thomas was the impetus behind several game-changing initiatives, including the implementation of electronic-case filing, the facilitation of telephone appearances at court hearings; and the establishment of regular hearings in the Williamsport division, all of which have made bankruptcy proceedings more accessible and leveled the negotiating playing field; and
- WHEREAS, by holding a federal hearing in State College and University Park for the first time in history and enacting legislation to enable such, Judge Thomas implicitly recognizes the importance of the Penn State Law School and the growing community of State College.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Donald M. Hahn, am pleased to recognize and celebrate Judge John J. Thomas for his many years of service and many contributions to the lives of financially challenged citizens of Middle District of Pennsylvania.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed, the great seal of the Borough of State College, this 2nd day of November 2018.



Mayor Donald M. Hahn
November 2, 2018

