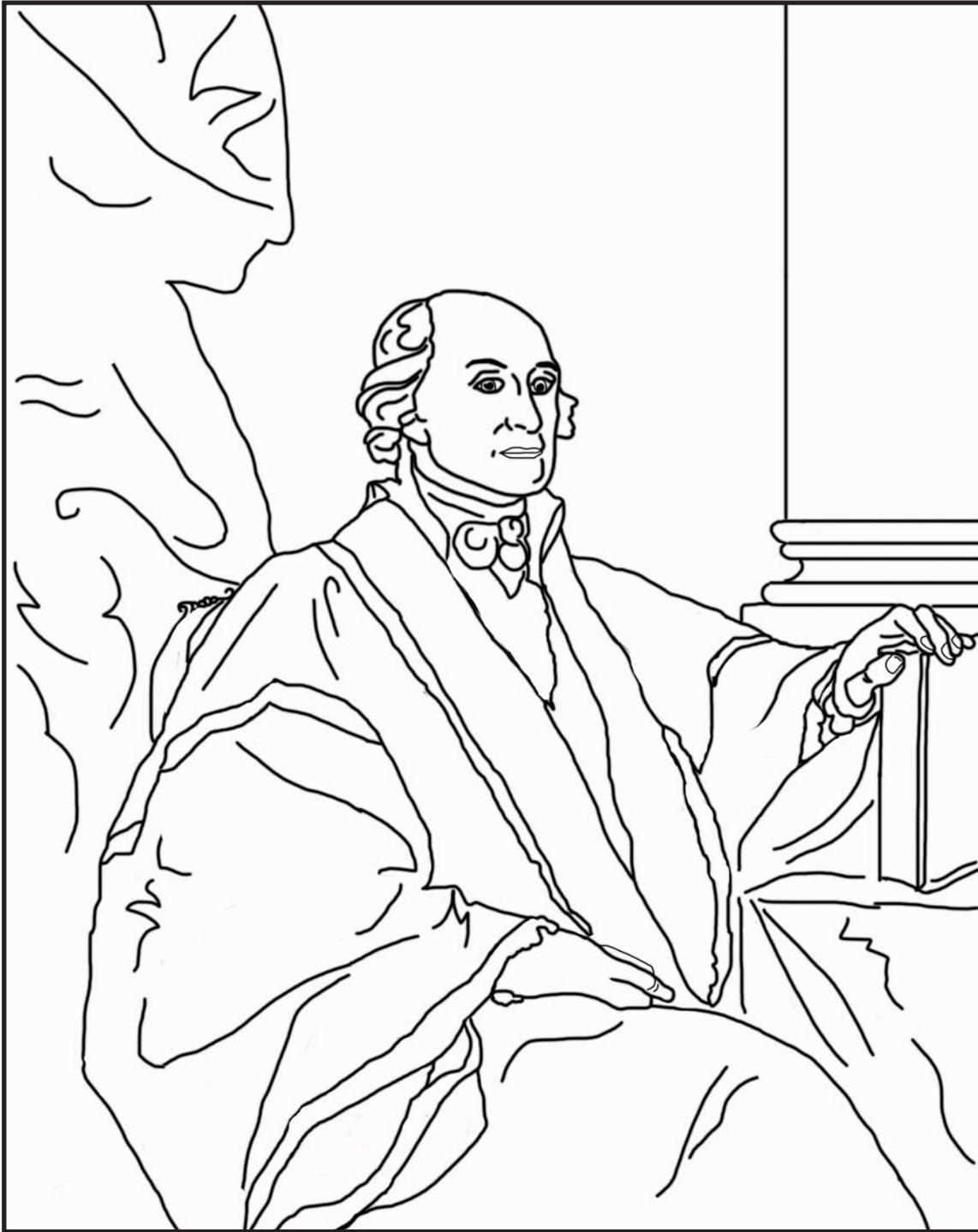


Color a Portrait!

Chief Justice John Jay (1789–1795)



Notice anything unusual about Chief Justice Jay's judicial robe? From 1792 to 1795, the Justices wore colorful robes similar to those worn in the portrait above. An all-black robe was adopted sometime between 1796 and 1799, a tradition that continues today.

John Jay, President George Washington's appointee as the first Chief Justice, played an influential role in the development of the new nation. He resigned from the Court in 1795 when he was elected Governor of New York.

Chief Justice John Jay

Artist: C. Gregory Stapko, after Gilbert Stuart

Oil on canvas, 1964

Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States