



The Honorable *don* JOHN McCLELLAN MARSHALL

Senior Judge  
Fourteenth Judicial District of Texas

April 14, 2021

Dear Mr. Waybourn,

First of all, my apologies for being so slow to respond to your thoughtful, informative, and, yes, deeply touching letter. Judges rarely receive such a message, especially after so many years, and it is a reminder that our decisions really do have an impact on our times.

For me, I have shared your letter with my friends, both legal and non-legal, to give them an answer to the question, "Why did you become a judge?" You should know that I consider this case probably the most important decision I rendered in 45 years of judicial service. It was also possibly the most controversial. My own father did not speak to me for three months afterwards. That said, I have never apologized for the decision because, as you correctly quoted

the core of the ruling, it gave the courts the opportunity to do justice and to be seen to be doing justice. Until your letter, I did not know the subsequent history of the case, but I am not surprised at Judge Eunders' decision.

By accident, I tuned in the "Dallas Buyers Club" & was stunned that anyone would show the decision so long after the event. That, together with your placement of my ruling at VNT, is most humbling, to say the least.

I only hope that, as you pass my great<sup>4</sup> grandfather's home, you feel that I have been worthy of that legacy.

Thank you, sir, from the bottom of my heart.

John McAlle Marshall