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Informational Resources

Quotes

- If a declaration of rights was incorporated into the constitution, independent tribunals of justice will consider themselves in a peculiar manner the guardians of those rights; they will be an impenetrable bulwark against every assumption of power in the legislative or executive; they will be naturally led to resist every encroachment upon rights expressly stipulated for in the constitution by the declaration of rights.

James Madison

- “In the arguments in favor of a declaration of rights (included in Madison’s letter of October 17, 1788)”, Jefferson wrote, “you omit one which has great weight with me, the legal check which it puts into the hands of the judiciary.”

Thomas Jefferson

- There is no accepted test of civilization. It is not wealth, or the degree of comfort, or the average duration of life, or the increase of knowledge. All such tests would be disputed. In default of any other measure, may it not be suggested that as good a measure as any is the degree to which justice is carried out, the degree to which men are sensitive as to wrongdoing and desirous to right it?

Sir John MacDonnell, *Historic Trials*

- There is hardly a political question in the United States which does not sooner or later turn into a judicial one.

Alexis DeTocqueville

- Heaven is above all yet; there sits a judge,
That no king can corrupt.

William Shakespeare, *Henry VIII*

- We cannot ask a man what he will do on the court, and if we should, and he should answer us, we should despise him for it.

Abraham Lincoln