

M2011-085
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE BROCK IMPEACHMENT
by Volunteer Stephen Leavenworth

Brock, David

This was the first impeachment procedure for a NH Hampshire Supreme Court Justice. Since the original NH Constitutions adoption, and indeed, that of the Federal Constitution, Congress and the various State Legislatures have had an uneasy relationship with a "Supreme Court". The idea that the Peoples' representatives could be determined by a third party to be wrong regarding the constitutionality of their acts was a difficult pill to swallow. In New Hampshire, the problem had never actually arisen. In 1790 Justice Woodbury Langdon, of Portsmouth, came close to impeachment but the problem was avoided when Langdon accepted an appointment by George Washington to a special commission at the Federal level, thus nullifying the whole issue. Therefore, when the House of Representatives of the State Legislature, in the summer of 2000, voted for an act of impeachment for Chief Justice David Brock, it was a first for NH where being first is often lauded throughout the State.

The materials herein are filed in chronological order as well as could be, although the activities of the Legislature, the lawyers and the Justices as well as trial, generally occurred over the summer and early fall of 2000.

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