Dear John

Philadelphia, Dec. 20, 1816

The honor of a profession in the service of a grateful people is a source of gratification. I shall return to Washington, in my reply to your letter, the sentiments of my heart. The case has been discussed with me, and I have been present at the council. I shall be honored in the sight of a people to determine the measure of a law of the country. Your past conduct has been such as to inspire me with confidence. I am sure you are a man of honor, and that you will act in accordance with the principles of justice.}

The President of the United States

[Signature]

Washington City, Dec. 20, 1816