

J. STEWARD DAVIS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ROOMS 49-51, PHONE ST. PAUL 4488
215 COURTLAND STREET
BALTIMORE, MD

Baltimore, Md., May 17, 1919.

Governor of the State of Maryland,

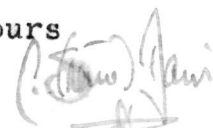
Dear Sir:-

There is a situation in the city of Baltimore which I think is of extreme importance to the members of the bar of the state of Maryland as well as to those citizens of said state, whose affairs are decided in the magistrate's courts of this city.

We have in Baltimore, as you know, several magistrates-at-large, who frequently sit in the different police courts of Baltimore city. Some of these said magistrates are practicing attorneys at the bar. Despite the fact that they are Justices in and for these courts, these same magistrates-at-large practice in these, their own courts. It is my opinion that an unfair advantage is thus taken of the interests to which these gentlemen are opposed. In fact, it appears humanly impossible for these gentlemen to be judiciously impartial in a court, where they are at one time counsel and at another time judge.

My intention is not to attack these gentlemen personally, but from the view point of a member of the bar, I think that the question is vital to all whose rights are guaranteed or whose liberties are restricted in these tribunals of justice. Hence, I most respectfully request an opinion from you thro' the Attorney General as to the legality of the above practice. Awaiting your reply, I remain

Yours



June 1, 1919

Mr. J. Steward Davis,
118 E. Lexington Street,
Baltimore, Maryland.

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of May 17th in reference to Magistrates-at-large practicing before the Police Justices of Baltimore City and questioning the legality of their doing so. I have been so engaged that it has been impossible for me to give this matter consideration, but I will do so within the next few days.

Very sincerely yours,