

CHAP. 65. courts, before they act as such, shall respectively take the following oath, or affirmation, as the case may be, to wit: "I, A. B. chief judge, (or associate judge,) for the — judicial district, do solemnly promise and swear, (or affirm,) that as judge I will do equal right and justice, according to law, in every case in which I shall act as judge, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay, and will behave myself justly, honestly and faithfully, in the said office, according to the best of my knowledge and understanding; so help me God."

By whom to be administered.

3. AND BE IT ENACTED. That the said oaths, or affirmations, shall be administered before any judge who shall be in the same commission, or before any qualified judge or justice of the peace, which qualification shall be certified by the judge or justice before whom the same is made, and shall be recorded in any court of which the judge so qualified is or shall be a member.

Judges commission.

4. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the form of commissions that shall issue to the judges of the courts of common law shall be as follows, to wit: "The State of Maryland to A. B. of — county, Greeting. Be it known, that reposing great trust and confidence in your integrity and sound legal knowledge, you are appointed and assigned Chief Judge, or Associate Judge, as the case may be, of — judicial district, (and, in the case of chief judge, insert, in virtue thereof Judge of the Court of Appeals.) to do equal right and justice according to law, in every case in which you shall act as judge, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without delay; and you are to execute the said office of judge, justly, honestly, diligently and faithfully, according to law; and you are to hold and execute the said office for and during your good behaviour, and removable only in the manner prescribed by the constitution and form of government. Given under the seal of the state of Maryland, this — day of —, in the year "eighteen hundred —."

County courts to be composed of all the district judges.

5. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the county courts in each judicial district shall be composed of all the judges appointed for such district, any one or more of whom shall have full power to hold the court, and to exercise all and singular the powers, jurisdictions and authorities, that might or could be exercised by all the judges when present.

Chief judge of the court of appeals to be designated in the commission.

6. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the governor and council shall vary the commission, so as to designate the chief judge of the court of appeals, which person, so designated, shall, when attending, preside in said court, and in case of his absence, or on his withdrawing from the bench in the cases specified by the constitution, the judge next in seniority, to be determined from the date of the commission, who shall be present, shall preside therein; and in case of the death, disqualification, or refusal to act, of the person appointed chief judge as aforesaid, the person next in seniority as aforesaid shall be the chief judge of the said court until a new appointment of a chief judge shall be made as aforesaid.

7. The times prescribed by this section for holding the court of appeals, have been altered by 1811, ch. 221, 1815, ch. 215, and 1816, ch. 151. By the last mentioned act, the court is held on the second Monday in June, and first Monday in December, for the western shore, and on the first Monday in June, and last Monday in November for the eastern shore.