

pointed and ready to take office, were Jeremiah Townley Chase, of Anne Arundel County, James Tilghman of Queen Anne's, William Polk of Somerset, John Buchanan of Washington, Joseph Hopper Nicholson of Baltimore, and John Mackall Gantt of Prince George's County. And on June 9, 1806, these six gentlemen came together at Annapolis, with their commissions, to start the work of the Court of Appeals of the Western Shore. The commissions were dated in the order in which the judges have just been named, and that was, accordingly, the order of their seniority. Moreover, the commission of Chief Judge Chase read, "You are appointed and assigned Chief Judge of the Third Judicial District, and in virtue thereof Judge of the Court of Appeals; and by the appointment of the Governor and Council Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals". Chief Judge Chase had taken the oath and qualified on February 4, 1806, and now, on June 9, the other five judges took the oath, and signed on that day the declaration of belief in the Christian religion. And having done so much on the Western Shore, all the judges, except Chief Judge Chase, who was not well, set sail for the Eastern Shore, to organize there in the court house at Easton, Talbot County, on the next day, June 10, 1806.

On each shore there were two candidates for the position of clerk, and on the Eastern Shore, the selection was carried over to the next term of court; on the Western Shore, it lay over one week.

The first official session on the Western Shore was not held until Monday, June 16. Then the commissions and certificates of oaths taken were