

Pinkey, Taney, Winder, Wirt, and a few others were the leaders of this early bar, but the pace all strove to follow in their court work was that which these men set.

It seems accurate to say that the Court of Appeals bar was then a special bar. No lawyer who wished to attend and argue a case was excluded, of course, but only a limited group made a business of attending, and they commonly argued cases there for other lawyers who had tried them below. It was not then the general practice of lawyers in the various trial jurisdictions to follow their cases to the Court of Appeals; and those who did attend ordinarily stayed for the entire term, much as the circuit-riding judges and lawyers in England had done for centuries. The sessions were assemblages of bench and bar alike. And, said Wirt,<sup>44</sup> "It is a pleasant bar, too—as merry dogs as you would wish to see of a summer's day. And Annapolis is a beautiful place." When Taney was appointed Attorney General of the United States, in 1831, he was attending the June term of the Court of Appeals, and he wrote to the Secretary of State from Annapolis, on June 24, 1831:

I accept the appointment, and pray you to convey to the President my respectful acknowledgments for this distinguished mark of his confidence. The Court of Appeals of this State is now in session, and I cannot leave it before the end of the Term without doing injustice to several persons who rely on me to argue their cases. Under such circumstances, I hope that my presence at Washington can be dispensed with until I have fulfilled my engagements here; and as soon as I have done so, I

44. Kennedy, II, 250.