

Court of Appeals but not on the General Court where the salary was higher but the business larger, Robert Hanson Harrison, Chief Judge of the General Court from 1781 to 1790, declined an appointment to the office of Chancellor, the highest judicial position, because the duties of that office would require immediate removal of his residence to Annapolis, and that was prevented by some previous indispensable arrangements in his own affairs and the affairs of others in his hands where he then resided, on the banks of the Potomac River, in Charles County.<sup>3</sup>

Three of these gentlemen appointed to the new Court of Appeals, Judges Mackall, Wright and Murray, had been members of the Maryland constitutional convention of 1776. Judge Rumsey had been a member of two of the councils of safety of that year, and had also been a member of the Continental Congress. Judge Jones had been the last Deputy Commissary of Baltimore County, for probate of wills and administration of estates, and when the Orphans Court system replaced the Prerogative Court and the commissaries, in 1777, he had become the first Register of Wills of Baltimore County.

By a resolution of the Assembly in 1778, the salary of the judges of the court was first fixed at five hundred pounds, but this was reduced to two hundred pounds; and from 1778 to 1785 the judges of all courts were paid by annual appropriations. A pound in Maryland at the time was worth \$2.666, and the first annual salary of a judge of the Court

3. Letter R. H. Harrison to Gov. John Eager Howard, October 3, 1789, MSS.