

Council of the proprietary government, which had been used by the court before the Revolution, was continued in use. The General Court also continued using the seal of the Provincial Court until 1783, and it then adopted a new seal closely similar to the new seal of the Court of Appeals; a border contained the words: "Maryland. General Court", and the center contained the scales suspended from clasped hands, with the star in the space between the chains of the scales, and an open book below the whole. The seal of the General Court of the Eastern Shore was dissimilar. Which of the courts first adopted the design used on the Western Shore has not been determined exactly. No minute of adoption in either court has been found, and the facts here stated have been ascertained from actual use of those seals on writs.

The full original Court of Appeals of five judges lasted only a short time. Judge Murray did not sit after November, 1783, and he died in September, 1784, and Judge Wright died in 1792. And the places left vacant by these deaths were not filled until 1801, for what reason must be left to speculation somewhat, but a plausible explanation is that the difficulty in getting judges to accept the position continued. After the vacancies had been filled, in 1801, it was provided by an act of 1801, chapter 74, sections 41 to 43, that when the number of judges should thereafter, by deaths or resignations, be reduced to three, the vacancies should not be filled, but the total number of judges should remain at three; and it will be recalled that such a reduction had been suggested by the House of