

1 Orphans Court.

2 Therefore, you see, I am the junior in
3 service on the Orphans Court. Until the report of this
4 Committee on the Judiciary Department of the Constitution
5 Convention Commission, I had not realized that trials
6 in absentia existed in the United States. I look at
7 the names on this Committee and in agreement with the
8 Chief Judge, we don't always agree, they are notable
9 because of their absence from the Court. I wondered
10 about this and considering the fact you have already
11 made your recommendation and probably nothing we can
12 say will change it, I would like your indulgence for a
13 few comments.

14 One member of the Committee is very well
15 acquainted with the Court, both in theory and in practice,
16 Melvin J. Sykes. His father was Chief Judge at least
17 beginning in 1940, that's as far back as I got, probably
18 further than that, who was a great scholar. Chief Judge
19 of the Court, unlike these county courts, or the Orphans
20 Court of Baltimore City has been comprised of lawyers
21 since before 1940. In deference to pleading our own cause,