

1 in which that judge happens to be sitting.

2 Back in 1913 a lawyer, the like of which does
3 not sit upon this Commission -- you all agree happily to
4 this one statement I shall make -- Mr. Edgar H. Gans made
5 a report concerning the sources of testamentary law in
6 Maryland. The report of that speech is reported and a
7 very fine lawyer and one of the greatest nisi prius judges
8 we ever had who should have been on the Supreme Court of
9 the United States, the closest I have ever come to a think-
10 ing machine, Judge Calvin Chesnut, had to read the
11 report because of the illness of Mr. Gans. This in 1913
12 when the courts of Maryland as regards the Orphans Court
13 were in the hands of laymen. This, of course, has
14 been studiously ignored ever since the Bond Commission
15 Report. Mr. Gans said, and I quote, "I hope the day is
16 not far distant when by constitutional and legislative
17 changes the Orphans Court, at least in the large cities of
18 the state, will be given the full dignity of Superior
19 Courts with full power to decide all questions involved
20 in the devolution of the estate of a decedent."

21

Gentlemen, that statement has proved true