

Maryland *Wm. W. Subscribers Affirming by Commission in Qualification of his Majesty's Justices of the Provincial Court of this Province do hereby solemnly declare that we did never directly nor indirectly receive any command or direction from his Excellency the Governour for doing any ill or all Act or thing which by Justice might be avoided or Law Strained beyond its due limits; either for favouring or punishing any particular party or parties, but that both the Governour & particular commands we have always received from his Excellency have been to see speedy Justice done & good rules made for more effectually putting in prosecution all the Laws of England & of this Province: Given under our hands this 14th day of Decemb^r in the eighth year of his Majesty's Reign &c. Annoq. Domini 1696.*

*Robert Smith Phil. Haffers
Philip Clarke Tho. Shiley
Jm. Hammond ~ Rich. Hill
Tho. Parker ~*

*Sworn unto in open Court before the Hon^{ble} &c
Jm. Thomas Lawsons Bar^r one of his Majesty's
hon^{ble} Council & day and year above said*

Wm. W. W. Clerk of the Court

I James written do swear that I have been employed by his Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq^r Governour of Maryland &c as Naball Officer of Battament dismut and I doo declare that ouring the time I have served in that Office, I never had or reciev'd any other instructions from him than to be diligent in the Laws of trade and navigation carefully observed and putt in Execution and that I never was perswaded by his Excellency to do any thing in my Office but what Law would justify me in and that I doo not pay any premium for my Office to his Excellency directly or indirectly in any way what so ever

Jurat in Curia 12 Decembris 1696 Wm. W. W. Clerk

Henry Denton do hereby testify & declare that what so ever I have had favour to enjoy in all the Courts of profit since the Arrival of his Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq^r within this Province; viz. Clerk of his Majesty's Council of State and his Assembly, Reg^{ty} of his Majesty's Court of Vice Admirally on the Westerne Shore & Naball Officer of the Port of Annapolis, the which I now hold by his Excellency's particular favour; but never received any gratuity or reward for the enjoyment of any of the said Courts, neither at any time did I ever receive any directions or command either directly or indirectly to do any thing contrary to my Duty in the Execution of any of the said Offices

Jurat in Curia 12 Decembris 1696 Hen. Denton

John Bouye being Clerk of the Family Office of his Excellency Francis Nicholson Governour of this Province doo declare that directly or indirectly his Excellency never did command or Order me to do or Act any thing or say what so ever contrary to Law or Usage of this Province, and now more but given me strict Order to be careful of the Records to be diligent in my Office of Clerk of the Shipps this I doo testify & declare as witness my hand this 14th Decemb^r 1696

Jurat in Curia die et Anno supradicti Bouye

Maryland *Wm. W. Bladen do hereby solemnly declare that as I am Clerk of the House of Burgesses or Assembly of this Province, Clerk of St. Marys County Court Clerk of the Court of Admiralty, in the Province of Georgia County Clerk &c I never had any directions or commands from his Excellency the Governour to Act or do any thing whatsoever belonging to my Office either for or in the Justice of any person or persons what so ever, nor any advice or Instruction from his Excellency further than to be diligent in my Duty to dispatch the Country business nor to have so much as thoughts of giving any part of the profit or perquisites of my Office to his Excellency or any gift or present to him for conferring them upon me to help me God and his holy word*

Jurat in Curia die et Anno supradicti Wm. Bladen

The Subscribers doo solemnly swear that I have been constituted and commissioned to be Clerk of the Provincial Court under the Hon^{ble} &c Jm. Thomas Lawsons Bar^r the principall Secretary of this Province of Maryland for the space of three years or thereabouts, and that since the time I have been in my Office; his Excellency Francis Nicholson Esq^r Governour of this Province, hath not directly nor indirectly commanded me to issue out of the Secretaries Office any process what so ever against any person or persons contrary to the Laws of England or any of the Laws & Customs of this Province, by his Excellency's authority or otherwise

Jurat in Curia die et Anno supradicti Wm. W. W. Clerk