

July 1732

(4)

*An ACT for ascertaining the Form of the Oath of
Judge or Justice.*

WHEREAS, the Oath of Judge or Justice (appointed to be taken by the Statute of the Eighteenth of *Edward the Third*) does not, in many Particulars, provide for the Constitution of this Province,

BE it therefore Enacted, by the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary, by and with the Advice and Consent of his Lordship's Governor, and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly, and the Authority of the same, That at some convenient Time, after the End of this present Session of Assembly, and before the last Day of November next, the following Oath shall be taken, as the proper Oath of Office, by the Members of the Court of Appeals, as Judges to correct Errors in Judgment and other Proceedings at Law, the Justices of the Provincial and County Courts, and the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of Annapolis, for the Time being, changing only what is to be changed, according to the different Stations of such Magistrates, viz.

YOU shall swear, *That as a Justice of the Provincial Court of Maryland, in all Articles of his Lordship's Commission to you directed, you shall do equal Law and Right to all the King's Subjects, Rich and Poor, according to the Laws, Customs, and Directions, of the Acts of Assembly of this Province, so far forth as they provide, and where they are silent, according to the Laws, Statutes, and reasonable Customs of England, as used and practised within this Province; and not deny any Person of common Right for any Cause or Pretence whatsoever. And in Case any Letters, or other Commandments, shall come to you, contrary to Law, that you do nothing by them, but cause them to be entred on Record, and certify the King, the Lord Proprietary, or the Governor (for the Time being,) of them, and proceed to execute the Law, notwithstanding the same Letters or Commandments. That you shall hold your Courts according to the Acts of Assembly, and the Directions in your Commission. That you shall do and procure the Profit of the Lord Proprietary, in all Things where you may lawfully and reasonably do the same. And that you shall not debar or hinder the Prosecution of Justice, nor take any Gift, Bribe, or Fee, for delaying or rendering Judgment; but shall behave your self justly, honestly, and faithfully, to the best of your Knowledge and Understanding, so long as you shall continue in the said Office.*

So help you God.

AND be it likewise Enacted, That the same Oath shall be taken by the Members of the Court of Appeals, as Judges to correct Errors in Judgments and other Proceedings at Common Law, the Justices of the Provincial and County Courts, and the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of Annapolis, for the Time being, as their proper Oath of Office to be administered, as hath been heretofore used; and that the same be administered to the Members of the Court of Appeals, as Judges to correct Errors in Judgments and other Proceedings at Common Law, the Justices of the Provincial and County Courts, and the Mayor, Recorder, and Aldermen, of the City of Annapolis, now in being, by Virtue of, and according