

To the R<sup>t</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> Char<sup>s</sup> L<sup>d</sup> Baltimore Absolute Lord &<sup>ca</sup>

The humble Petition of John Sharpe of Lincoln's Inn for & on behalf of Several of the late practitioners of the Law in the Province of Maryland

Calvert  
Paper  
No. 295<sup>1</sup>  
p. 7

Sheweth

That an Act was pass'd in the s<sup>d</sup> Province of Maryland in Oct<sup>r</sup> 1725, Entituled an Act to Restrain the ill practices of Attorneys, & to Prevent their taking Money-Fees, & ascertaining what Fees shall be Allowed to Practitioners in the Law who shall Attend the Circuit Courts, & was explained by a Subsequent Act Passed in March 1725/6 which Act continued in Force till July last & by another Act then Passed is continued 3 years longer

That by these Acts the Profession of the Law is put under so many Hardships & Difficultys that many of the practitioners of the Law have been necessitated to leave their practice untill they shall be releived from the many & unjust Oppressions brought on them thereby, & to that end they have directed your Petitioner for them & on their behalves humbly to Apply to your Lordship for a Repeal of all the said Acts as being unjust in themselves, not agreeable to Reason & repugnant to the Laws of England, therefore not warranted by your Lordship's Charter.

Your petitioner therefore, & on behalf of the s<sup>d</sup> Practitioners of the Law in Maryland humbly pray that your Lordship wou'd be forthwith pleased to Repeal the said Acts.

And your petitioner shall ever Pray &<sup>ca</sup>

Jan<sup>ry</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> 1729 upon the s<sup>d</sup> petition being presented & read, his Ldsp thereupon heard the s<sup>d</sup> Complaint & Dissented thereto for the Reasons hereunto mentioned viz.

1<sup>st</sup> Because the Oath prescribed by this Act seems not consistent with it's self.

2<sup>dly</sup> The provision made by this Act is unreasonable, Because it directs one intire Fee to be taken for Prosecuting & Defending any suit from the beginning to the End of it, whereas the Reward ought to Differ according to the length & labour of a Suit which frequently depends upon the Industry & Ability of those who mannage them.

3<sup>dly</sup> Every British Subject has a Right to dispose of his own in what manner he pleases, because if there is any Extortion of Fees, 'tis Subject to the Controul of the Legislature.

S<sup>r</sup> Phil: Yorke's Att<sup>ney</sup> General his Opinion concerning the Statutes of England Affecting

Maryland

Qu: Whether such General Statutes of England as have been