



## JUSTICE SAMUEL CHASE

On **Thursday, December 3**, Professor James O'Hara will examine the life and judicial career of Justice Samuel Chase, taking a close look at his impeachment trial of 1805.

**Samuel Chase** was born in Somerset, Maryland on April 17, 1741. In 1786, Chase moved to Baltimore, which remained his home for the rest of his life. In 1788, he was appointed Chief Justice of the District Criminal Court in Baltimore. In 1791, he became Chief Justice of the Maryland General Court, serving until 1796. On January 26, 1796, President George Washington appointed Chase as an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States where he served until his death on June 19, 1811. He is buried in Old Saint Paul's Cemetery.

A staunch Federalist with a volcanic personality, Chase showed no willingness to tone down his bitter partisan rhetoric after Jeffersonian Republicans gained control of Congress in 1801. Representative John Randolph of Virginia, at the urging of President Thomas Jefferson, orchestrated impeachment proceedings against Chase, declaring he would wipe the floor with the obnoxious justice.

**James O'Hara** is a retired professor from Loyola University Maryland. He is an historian specializing in the Supreme Court of the United States. Professor O'Hara is a Trustee and Chairman of the Publications Committee of the Supreme Court Historical Society.

**Place:** Mitchell Courthouse – 100 North Calvert Street – Main Reading Room of the Bar Library (Room 618).

**Time:** 5:00 p.m., Thursday, December 3, 2015, with a wine & cheese reception immediately following.

**Invitees:** Members of the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar and their guests, judges, employees of Baltimore City and its courts, courthouse employees, government lawyers, law librarians, law and college faculty and students. Others may attend on payment of a \$20 admission charge or upon application for Bar Library membership. Proceeds will go to the Library's Honorable Harry A. Cole Self-Help Center.

**R.S.V.P.:** If you would like to attend telephone the Library at 410-727-0280 or reply by e-mail to [jwbennett@barlib.org](mailto:jwbennett@barlib.org).