And thereupon State of Maryland by her Attorney aforesaid, on the day aforementioned, hereby faith the aforesaid declared against the said Levin Ballard in the plea aforesaid as follows, viz. Levin State of Maryland Somerset County, to wit. Levin Ballard late of Somerset County Gentleman, was summoned to answer unto the State of Maryland of a plea that he render unto the said State, the sum of Ten thousand pounds current money, which unto the said State he owes and from it unjustly detains &c. And whereupon the said State by Josiah Bayly its Attorney, saith that the said Levin on the twenty seventh day of December in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and ninety six, at the County aforesaid by his certain writing obligatory sealed with the Seal of the said Levin and here into Court now brought the date whereof is the same day & year aforesaid, acknowledged himself to be held and firmly bound unto the said State, in the said sum of Ten thousand pounds current money of Maryland, to be paid unto the said State when he the said Levin should be thereunto afterwards required. Nevertheless the said Levin the said sum of money or any part thereof unto the said State yet hath not rendered or paid, (although thereto often required) but the same to the said State to render or pay hitherto altogether hath refused and still doth refuse, to the damage of the said State Twenty thousand pounds current money of Maryland, and therefore the said State brings suit &c.

Josiah Bayly for the State. John Doe & Richard Roe for Lessees &c.

The writing obligatory whereof mention is made in the aforegoing Declaration sworn as follows, viz. "Know all men by these presents that we Levin Ballard, Levin Gale, William Jones and George Waggaman of Somerset County in the State of Maryland are held and firmly bound unto the State of Maryland in the full and just sum of Ten thousand pounds current money to be paid State or its certain Attorney; to the which payment well and truly to be made we bind ourselves our Heirs Ex.rs & Adm.rs jointly and severally firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this 27th day of December in the year Seventeen hundred & ninety six. The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bounden Levin Ballard as Sheriff of Somerset County, do and shall well and faithfully execute the same office in all things appertaining thereto, and shall also render to the several Officers within this State a just and true and true account of all fees placed in his hands for collection within the time limitted by Law and shall also well and truly pay all sums of money received by him, and also collect and pay all public dues, fines and forfeitures which are due or belonging to the State; and shall also well and faithfully execute and return all Writs process and warrants to him directed and delivered and shall also pay and deliver to the person or persons entitled to receive the same all sum or sums of money, Tobacco, goods, chattels or property by him levied paid or taken agreeable to the directions of the writ process or warrant under which the same shall have been levied seized or taken; and also shall keep & detain in safe custody all and every person or persons committed to his custody or by him taken in execution, or who shall be committed for the want of Bail without suffering them or any of them to escape or depart from his custody & shall also satisfy and pay all Judgments which shall or may be rendered against him as Sheriff, and shall also well and truly execute and perform the several duties required of or imposed upon him by the Laws of this State: Then this obligation to be void and of none effect otherwise to remain in full force and virtue in Law. Signed sealed & delivered in the presence of John Done Chief Just. of the 9th District of Maryland on the day and year above specified.

Levin Ballard Seal. Levin Gale Seal. William Jones Seal. G. Waggaman Seal.

On the said Bond were the following Endorsements, viz.

Recorded in Liber H. folio 157. on the twenty seventh day of December anno domini 1796.

Wm. Done Clk.

Maryland Somerset County, to wit.

I hereby Certify unto all whom it doth or may concern that the within is a true Copy taken from Liber H. folio 157. one of the Record Books of conveyance remaining in my Office. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my Office this 16th day of June anno domini 1797.

Wm. Done Clk. of Somerset County Court

Copies of which said Declaration & Bond were made & sent to the Coroner of Somerset County, thereon indorsed, "to be served on the Defendant with the writ or left at his last place of abode, twenty days at least before the return of the said Writ for plea or Judgment the first Court." At which said second Tuesday in September seventeen hundred and ninety seven, being the return day of the aforesaid writ, came into Court the said State of Maryland by Josiah Bayly her Attorney, and the Coroner of Somerset County, to whom the said writ was directed made return thereof thus endorsed to wit. "Copies & Copy delivered the 8th of Sept.r 1797. So answers, Thos. Skinner, Wm. Dixon & Wm. Walter Coroners for Somerset County." And thereupon the said Levin Ballard being called, comes not but thereon makes default, whereupon further process of and upon the premises by order of the Court here thereon is continued until the second Thursday of September next. At which said second Tuesday in April seventeen hundred and ninety eight, came into Court the said State of Maryland by her Attorney aforesaid, and the said Levin Ballard being called appeared in Court here by Thomas James Bullitt his Attorney. And thereupon on motion of the said State of Maryland by her Attorney aforesaid, it was ruled by the Court here that the said Levin Ballard should answer to the Declaration in the plea aforesaid or Judgment would be rendered against him by default; and thereupon the said Levin Ballard by his Attorney aforesaid defends the force and injury when &c. and prayed leave to imparle until the second Tuesday of September the next and he had it thereupon day was given to the said State of Maryland then &c. At which said second Tuesday of September seventeen hundred and ninety eight, came into Court as well the said State of Maryland by her Attorney aforesaid as the said Levin Ballard by his Attorney aforesaid. And the said Levin Ballard by his Attorney aforesaid defends the force and injury when &c. and prays an hearing of the writing obligatory aforesaid and it's read to him in these words & figures following to wit. "Know all men by these presents that we Levin Ballard, Levin Gale, William Jones & George Waggaman of Somerset County in the State of Maryland are held and firmly bound unto the State of Maryland in the full and just sum of Ten thousand pounds current money to be paid to the said State or its certain Attorney, to the which payment well and truly to be made & done we bind ourselves our Heirs Executors and Adm.rs jointly and severally firmly by these presents. Sealed with our Seals and dated this 27th day of December in the year 1796. He also prays an hearing of the Condition of the same writing obligatory and it's likewise read to him in these words following to wit." The Condition of the above Obligation is such that if the above bounden Levin Ballard, as Sheriff of Somerset County do and shall well and faithfully execute the same office in all things appertaining thereto; and shall