

OLD BACON FACE – SAMUEL CHASE – Original Supreme Court Justice



Samuel Chase had a most unfortunate nickname: Old Bacon Face. He probably received this moniker because of his reddish-brown complexion. He might as well have received it because he was often hot under the collar and the sizzle and pop of his tongue burned many an enemy.

In 1796, President George Washington came calling—nominating Chase as a jurist to the United States Supreme Court.

- Once he became a Supreme Court Justice, Chase’s obnoxious ways came to the surface once again.
- Some people objected to the way he badgered attorneys from the bench.
- Others objected to his frequent partisan diatribes from the bench.
- And when Thomas Jefferson was elected to the presidency, Chase couldn’t resist bad-mouthing the new president and his administration. ***“Under Jefferson,” he said, “our republican Constitution will sink to Mobocracy, the worst of all possible governments.”***

The House of Representatives held an Impeachment trial to try to kick him off the Supreme Court.

They failed.

To this day, Chase has been the only Supreme Court justice impeached.