Spencer Roane: Judicial Advocate Of Jeffersonian Principles

Roane denounced the despotism and promoted the principles of limited government. He was characterized by a judicial coup de main to give a sense of authority and power. His actions were seen as independent from the state, and he challenged the principles of limited government.

Roane served in the Virginia House of Delegates for six years and a year in the Commonwealth's small executive branch (Council of State). The majority of his public career was as a judge, first of the General Court. Some of the correspondence between Jefferson and Roane remains.