In Castile the political forces lobbying for governmental reforms, especially during the 1520s and 1530s, advanced domestic policies that the executive implemented with assiduous attention to the details of institutional improvement. The monarchy developed management programs as strategies of state conservation; it had developed a parliamentary ‘conscience’ through its administrative transformation and its implementation of reform policies formulated by the parliament. The Castilian republics acted on three guiding principles: first, to preserve the traditional Spanish emphasis on communal cooperation through the Cortes; second, to protect the democratic prerogatives of city and town councils; and third, to defend and perpetuate the Spanish global axis of commerce and urban expansionism, which benefited commercial centers.

Castilian constitutionalism (not wanting to confuse here Renaissance concepts with anachronistic and presentist values) was a system of institutional and legal controls advanced by the Cortes and articulated by the city and town republics. The comunero program of state reconstruction and the 1523 Cortes platform of judicial reform had a historical trajectory. Policies hammered out by the administration in the 1520s supported Charles’ imperial career and allowed for Spanish globalization under the supervision of the new executive under President Tavera. As already demonstrated, Charles reformed the executive, ‘downsizing’ and hispanicizing it simultaneously. Although Charles did not have to hispanicize the chancillerías of Granada and Valladolid (the royal appellate courts above the corregimientos; see Fig. 2), he institutionalized the mechanisms of justice and implemented qualitative procedures of management efficiency. Charles fortified judicial institutions by

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1 See the article by Joan Pau Rubiés, “La idea del gobierno mixto,” 61. The author, however, does not extend such traditions to the crown of Castile, isolating Renaissance political praxis within the crown of Aragon.
2 See, for example, an analysis of the transformation of the appellate court of
permitting President Tavera to establish a network of qualified jurists and law graduates. Employing similar policies of selecting officials based on criteria formulated by the procuradores of the Cortes, Charles and his councilors rebuilt the chancery staffs and secured standards of recruitment. Charles, Tavera, and a handful of members of the Council of Castile thus reformed the judicial bureaucracy.

In order to describe in more detail Charles’ and Tavera’s reform program, this chapter contains five sections. The first section provides an overview of the royal appellate system. The second section covers the petitions of the Cortes that Charles and Tavera implemented in order to end what the cities (echoing on what the comuneros said about Charles’ innovations) regarded as Burgundian patronage, and to initiate self-regulating procedures. The third section is an analysis of the evolution of President Tavera’s network of personnel, who were appointed to the Chancery of Granada between the years 1524 and 1535. The fourth section is an analysis of Tavera’s sponsorship of law graduates appointed to the Chancery of Valladolid. Tavera dominated the chanceries, as over fifty percent of the judges Charles appointed to the chanceries of Granada and Valladolid were Tavera associates. The third and fourth sections of this chapter also offer a review of candidates competing for chancery posts; these sections, therefore, provide a case-by-case study of the chanceries as meritocratic institutions. The last section, which considers the appeal of judicial positions, offers suggestions as to why judges were attracted to, and wanted to pursue, careers in law. Judges, I shall suggest, wanted to do something important in society, in addition to providing for their families. Sheer material gain was unfulfilling for men dedicated to higher principles such as pursuing justice and leading honorable lives.

**The Appellate System**

When Charles arrived in Spain in 1522 he faced an enormous task: the overhaul of the judicial system (see Fig. 4). In the network of royal courts