



County Technical Assistance Service  
INSTITUTE *for* PUBLIC SERVICE

July 22, 2024

---

# Chapter V - Court System

---

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website ([ctas.tennessee.edu](http://ctas.tennessee.edu)). This website is maintained by CTAS staff and seeks to represent the most current information regarding issues relative to Tennessee county government.

We hope this information will be useful to you; reference to it will assist you with many of the questions that will arise in your tenure with county government. However, the *Tennessee Code Annotated* and other relevant laws or regulations should always be consulted before any action is taken based upon the contents of this document.

Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or comments regarding this information or any other CTAS website material.

Sincerely,

The University of Tennessee  
County Technical Assistance Service  
226 Anne Dallas Dudley Boulevard, Suite 400  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
615.532.3555 phone  
615.532.3699 fax  
[www.ctas.tennessee.edu](http://www.ctas.tennessee.edu)

Table of Contents

<b>Chapter V - Court System .....</b>	<b>. 3</b>
<b>Criminal Court .....</b>	<b>. 3</b>
<b>Public Acts of 1951 Chapter 73 .....</b>	<b>. 3</b>
<b>General Sessions Court .....</b>	<b>. 4</b>
<b>Private Acts of 1955 Chapter 170 .....</b>	<b>. 4</b>
<b>Juvenile Court .....</b>	<b>. 6</b>
<b>Private Acts of 1994 Chapter 187 .....</b>	<b>. 6</b>
<b>Court System - Historical Notes .....</b>	<b>. 6</b>

# Chapter V - Court System

## Criminal Court

### Public Acts of 1951 Chapter 73

**COMPILER'S NOTE:** The following act is a public act of special application and is not codified in Tennessee Code Annotated.

**SECTION 1.** That a Criminal Court is hereby created and established in the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, for the counties of Greene, Hamblen, Hawkins, and Sullivan, to be known as the "Criminal Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee".

**SECTION 2.** That the said Criminal Court shall have general, common law, and statutory jurisdiction, original appellate and exclusive over all criminal cases existing and arising in said counties to the same extent as is now or may hereafter be conferred upon the Circuit and Criminal Courts of this State under the common law or the statutes and to hear, try, and determine all criminal cases.

**SECTION 3.** That concurrent with the passage of this Act, the Honorable Thomas H. Rogan, of Hawkins County, is hereby appointed Judge of the Criminal Court created hereunder, and shall serve until the next general election, as provided for in Section 4 of this Act. Said Judge shall be clothed with the same powers and jurisdiction as to extraordinary process as are now provided by law for such Criminal Judges, Circuit Judges and Chancellors in this State, and his salary shall be the same and paid in like manner by the State as that of other Criminal and Circuit Judges of the State.

**SECTION 4.** That at the general election to be held on the first Thursday in August, 1952, and at all regular elections for Judges held thereafter, there shall be elected by the qualified voters of said counties a Judge for said Criminal Court of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, in the same manner and with the same tenure of office as other Criminal and Circuit Judges of this State.

**SECTION 5.** That the District Attorney General of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee shall perform the duties of the District Attorney General in the said Criminal Court in the counties herein named.

**SECTION 6.** That the Circuit Court Clerks and Sheriffs of the several counties herein named shall be the Clerks and Sheriffs for said Criminal Court in said counties and they shall perform the same duties and receive the same compensation now provided by law for them.

**SECTION 7.** That all bonds and recognizances heretofore or hereinafter taken and of process heretofore or hereinafter issued, shall be made returnable to the Court at the times and places fixed by this Act for the holding of the said Court in said counties herein named.

**SECTION 8.** That it shall be lawful for the Judge of the Criminal Court and the Judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit to hold each of their courts in any of the different counties, including the same county, or said circuit at the same time.

**SECTION 9.** That the County Courts, Jury Commissioners or other duly existing and authorized authorities of the various counties above set out shall appoint and select juries for said Criminal Court, according to the law now controlling in the above counties respectively, who shall be summoned to attend and bound to appear at said Criminal Court and shall have the same pay, qualifications, powers and privileges and shall be organized, as now, under existing law as the law provides with reference to grand juries and all other juries of courts, but all bills of indictment, presentments and informations shall be returned to said Criminal Court.

**SECTION 10.** That all criminal cases now existing or pending in the Circuit Courts of said named counties on the passage of this Act shall by virtue of the provisions of this Act automatically be transferred to this said Criminal Court herein established in said counties respectively, and said cases shall be tried and determined therein by this said Criminal Court. The Clerks of the respective Circuit Courts in the aforesaid counties shall immediately upon the passage of this Act transfer all criminal proceedings and papers from the Circuit Court for said county to the Criminal Court and shall procure and keep the proper books, records and minutes for said Criminal Court. The Clerk shall keep the records, papers, minutes and proceedings of the Circuit Court and the Criminal Court separate. All Courts of General Sessions and Justices of the Peace, or other inferior courts, in the various herein named counties shall bind over offenders against the State laws to said Criminal Court as heretofore they have been bound over to the Circuit Court.

**SECTION 11.** That all appeals, writs of error and appeals in the nature of writs of error shall be

prosecuted from the judgments of said Criminal Court to the Supreme Court and as from other Criminal Courts of this State.

**SECTION 12.** That the time and place for holding the said Criminal Court in the said counties shall be as follows:

For Greene County, at Greeneville, the second Mondays in January, May, and September.

For Hamblen County, at Morristown, the first Mondays in February, June, and October.

For Hawkins County, at Rogersville, the third Mondays in February, June, and October.

For Sullivan County, at Blountville, the first Mondays in March, July, and November.

**SECTION 13.** That all laws and parts of laws now existing in conflict with this Act and its full intentions, be and the same are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 14.** That this Act take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: February 27, 1951.

## General Sessions Court

### Private Acts of 1955 Chapter 170

**SECTION 1.** That there is hereby created and established in and for Greene County, Tennessee, a Court, which shall be designated "Court of General Sessions of Greene County, Tennessee."

Court rooms and adequate facilities for said Court shall be provided in the Courthouse at Greeneville and it shall be the duty of the Chairman of the County Court of said County to make provisions therefor, and to provide necessary dockets, furnishings, supplies and all necessary equipment for the proper maintenance of said Court and the expenses of same shall be paid out of the General Fund of the County.

**SECTION 2.** That the Court of General Sessions of Greene County, Tennessee, is hereby vested with all the jurisdiction and shall exercise the authority conferred by the Legislature upon Justices of the Peace in civil and criminal cases, suits and actions, which jurisdiction and authority shall be co-extensive with Greene County, Tennessee. The authority of the Justices of the Peace in their capacity as members of the Quarterly Court or in the performance of the rites of matrimony, to hear and determine cases for damages where the amount involved does not exceed Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, and to issue criminal and civil warrants returnable before General Sessions Judge and to pass on bail bonds pending a hearing before the General Sessions Judge and issuing mittimus to jail for those persons to be held pending action before the General Sessions Court is in nowise affected by this Act.

**SECTION 3.** That jurisdiction and authority is hereby conferred upon the Judge of the Court of General Sessions for Greene County, Tennessee, to grant all extraordinary process in all proper cases presented to him in which application is made therefor in all cases originating in Greene County, and when so granted by him will be as effective as those granted by the Judges of the various Courts of the State.

**SECTION 4.** That before the issuance of any warrant in a civil case the plaintiff shall execute a cost bond with good security in the sum of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars, or in lieu thereof make a cash deposit with the Clerk of not less than Ten (\$10.00) Dollars or more than Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars to secure the costs, or take the oath prescribed for poor persons, and on motion, the Court may increase the security.

**SECTION 5.** That said Court shall be in session at the Courthouse in Greeneville daily, Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 4 o'clock p.m., provided, however, the Judge shall have power and authority to hear and determine cases at any other place in Greene County as he may determine to be more feasible and convenient for the parties.

**SECTION 6.** That the costs and fees and the rules of pleading and practice, forms of writs and process, stay of appeals from judgments in civil cases of said Court shall be the same as Justices of the Peace, except where specifically changed by this Act, in cases in which the jurisdiction of said Justices have been divested by this Act.

**SECTION 7.** That the criminal and civil dockets shall be kept in substantially the form as those now required of Justices of the Peace.

**SECTION 8.** That there shall be a Judge for said Court with the same qualifications, term of office, and oath as prescribed by law for Circuit Judges and Chancellors. That the compensation of said Judge shall be Sixty-five Hundred (\$6,500.00) Dollars, per annum, payable in equal monthly installments, the same to be paid out of the General Funds of the County.

**SECTION 9.** That the first Judge shall be elected by the qualified voters of he County at the election of

other County Officers in August, 1958 and shall take his office September 1, 1958, and shall hold said office for a term of eight (8) years as provided by law for Circuit Judges and Chancellors.

**SECTION 10.** That if the Judge of said Court fails to attend, cannot attend, or preside in a pending cause, the majority of the attorneys present in such Court may elect of their number one who has the qualifications of such a Judge and when elected shall have the same authority as a regular Judge to hold the Court for the occasion.

**SECTION 11.** That the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Greene County, Tennessee, is hereby authorized and directed to act as Clerk of said Court and to perform the duties thereof in all civil and criminal cases and who shall have concurrent authority with the Judge to issue warrants and other processes and writs, other than those which the law requires shall be issued only by a judicial officer. All bail bonds, recognizance bonds and appearance bonds of persons charged with misdemeanors for their appearance for arraignment or trial in said Court shall be taken by the Clerk or by a Justice of the Peace, and immediately, if taken by a Justice of the Peace turned over to the Clerk and filed in his office. All fees for issuing warrants which are collectible under the General Law shall go into the Circuit Court Clerk's Office to be applied on his salary and the expenses of running his office.

**SECTION 12.** That all fines and forfeitures adjudged by said Court shall be payable to and collected by the Clerk and be reported on and accounted for and paid over as required by law.

**SECTION 13.** That the Sheriff of said County, or any Deputy Sheriff or Constable thereof, shall serve legal processes, writs and papers issued by said Court with the same authority as provided by law in the other inferior Courts.

**SECTION 14.** That the Court of General Sessions of Greene County, Tennessee, is hereby vested with jurisdiction to try and determine and render final judgments in all misdemeanors brought before said Court by warrant on information wherein the person charged with such misdemeanor offenses enters a plea of guilty or requests a trial upon the merits, and expressly waives an indictment, presentment and a Grand Jury investigation, and a jury trial. In such cases the trial shall proceed before the Judge and without a jury. The final judgment of such Court may be appealed to the Criminal Court of Greene County, where such appeal shall be tried by a Judge of such Court without a jury and without indictment of presentment.

**SECTION 15.** That it shall be the mandatory duty of the Judge of said Court when a defendant is brought before such Court upon arraignment or trial, to advise such defendant of his constitutional right to the aid of counsel, the right to be tried only upon presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury, the right to make a statement in reference to the accusation or the right to waive such statement and a right to a trial by a jury. Upon the defendant agreeing in writing to waive the right to be put to trial only by presentment or indictment by a Grand Jury and the right to be tried by a jury of his peers, such Court may proceed to hear and determine said case.

Said waiver shall be in writing, signed by the defendant, written on or attached to the warrant, and in the form and of contents substantially as follows:

The defendant, \_\_\_\_\_ pleads \_\_\_\_\_ guilty of the offenses of \_\_\_\_\_ and expressly waives his or her right to be tried only by or upon presentments or indictment preferred by a Grand Jury, and likewise expressly waives the right to and trial by a jury of his or her peers.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk

**SECTION 16.** That said Court shall have authority to hear and determine all undisposed of cases arising in the Courts of Justices of the Peace of Greene County, as if said cases had originated in said Court of General Sessions, and said Court shall have power and authority to issue executions and other final process on judgments rendered by Justices of the Peace.

**SECTION 17.** That this Act shall in no wise impair the right, title or interest of any Justices of the Peace of Greene County to any unpaid fees, or fund in which he had a right or interest in any proceedings, judgment or suit, whether said cause is disposed of or pending when this Act becomes effective.

That the official dockets, records and papers in possession of Justices of the Peace of said County shall be turned over to Greene County on the date this Act becomes effective.

**SECTION 18.** That the Legislature expressly declares that each section, sub-section, paragraph and provision of this Act is severable, and that should any portion of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the remainder of this Act, but such unconstitutional or invalid portion

shall be elided, and the Legislature declares that it would have enacted this Act with such unconstitutional or invalid portions elided therefrom.

**SECTION 19.** That all laws or parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act, be, and they are hereby repealed as of the date this Act becomes effective.

**SECTION 20.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall be approved by the majority of the voters voting in an election to be held for such purpose. Said election shall be held at the general election in August, 1956 and it shall be the duty of the County Board of Election Commissioners of Greene County to call the election for the purpose of accepting or rejecting the provisions of this Act. On said ballot used in said election shall be printed thereon the title of this Act and the voters shall vote for or against its adoption. The votes cast in such election shall be canvassed by the County Board of Election Commissioners upon the first Monday occurring five or more days next after the date of such election and the results shall be proclaimed by such Board and certified to the Secretary of State. The qualifications of voters shall be that provided by law for participation in general elections and all laws applicable to general elections shall apply to an election held hereunder.

**SECTION 21.** That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: March 2, 1955.

## Juvenile Court

### Private Acts of 1994 Chapter 187

**SECTION 1.** On the effective date of this act, the Clerk of the Court of General Sessions of Greene County shall also serve as the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Greene County and the County Clerk shall cease to be Clerk of such Juvenile Court. In the cases of juvenile jurisdiction conferred on the General Sessions Court, separate docket and minute books shall be kept by the Clerk of the Court of General Sessions.

**SECTION 2.** On the effective date of this act, the County Clerk shall immediately transfer all records, files and other documents in such County Clerk's possession relating to the Juvenile Court of Greene County to the Clerk of the Court of General Sessions of Greene County.

**SECTION 3.** This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the Legislative Body of Greene County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Greene County Legislative Body and certified to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 4.** For the purpose of approving or rejecting the provisions of this act, it shall be effective upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, it shall become effective upon being approved as provided in Section 3.

Passed: April 14, 1994.

## Court System - Historical Notes

### **Board of Jury Commissioners - Jurors**

The following acts once affected jurors or boards of jury commissioners in Greene County, but are no longer operative. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1784, Laws of North Carolina, Chapter 28, Section 3, created the Washington District which consisted of the counties of Greene, Washington and Sullivan. This act also authorized Greene County to send twenty-one persons to serve as grand and petit jurors for the superior court of law and equity.
2. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 786, amended Acts of 1903, Chapter 348, which created a board of jury commissioners, to allow Greene County to establish the same.
3. Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 393, created a board of jury commissioners for Greene County. This act differed from the provisions now found in the general law in that the board was to be composed of only two members of different political parties, appointed by the quarterly county court. This act also provided that the number of names on the jury list submitted was to be not less than one-fifth the number of voters in the past presidential election, but that the list was to be of not less than five hundred nor more than six hundred names. The original act was amended by Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 433 and again by Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 338, which raised the number of required names on the jury list to not less than nine hundred nor more than

one thousand names.

4. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 253, set the salary of jurors in Greene County at \$4.00 per day, with the foreman of the grand jury receiving a per diem of \$6.00.
5. Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 94, raised the salary of jurors to \$5.00 per day, with the foreman of the grand jury to receive \$7.00 per day.

### **Chancery Court**

The following acts form an outline of the development of equity jurisdiction in Greene County, although they no longer have the force of law since they have either been superseded by general law, repealed, or failed to receive local ratification.

1. Public Acts of 1824, Chapter 14, Section 8, set the terms for the chancery court in Greene County to the third Mondays in May and November.
2. Private Acts of 1826, Chapter 90, provided that chancery court in Greeneville would be held on the second Mondays in May and November.
3. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 79, Section 3, divided the state into two chancery divisions. The chancery court at Greenville was placed in the Eastern Division along with the chancery courts held at Rogersville, Kingston, Carthage and McMinnville.
4. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 88, Section 3, set the times for holding the Greene County Chancery Court to the third Mondays of May and November.
5. Public Acts of 1829-30, Chapter 27, set the time for holding the Green County Chancery Court to the second Mondays of May and November.
6. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 4, established chancery districts throughout the state. This act placed Greene County in the second chancery division, the courts of which were held on the second Mondays in February and September.
7. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 116, Section 12, set the times for holding the chancery court of Greene County to the second Mondays of May and November.
8. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 132, Section 2, provided that citizens of Greene County could file chancery bills at the court at Greeneville or the court at Dandridge.
9. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 88, prescribed the times and places of holding chancery courts in the state. The chancery court of Greene County was set for the first Mondays of May and November at Greenville.
10. Public Acts of 1865-66, Chapter 41, set the dates for holding chancery court in Greene County to the second Mondays in May and November.
11. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 32, divided the state into chancery districts. The first chancery district was composed of the counties of Johnson, Carter, Washington, Sullivan, Hawkins, Greene, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger, Jefferson, Cocke, Powell and Hamblen.
12. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 47, fixed the times for holding the chancery courts of the state. The chancery court of Greene County was set for the second Mondays of May and November.
13. Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, divided the state into chancery divisions. Greene County was placed in the first chancery division along with Johnson, Carter, Washington, Sullivan, Hawkins, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger, Jefferson, Cocke, Hamblen and Unicoi counties. The chancery court of Greene County was set for the second Mondays in May and November.
14. Public Acts of 1891, Chapter 165, amended Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, by reorganizing the first chancery division. Greene County was placed in the first chancery division and the time for holding said court was set for the third Monday in January and July.
15. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, divided the state into chancery divisions. Greene County was placed in the first chancery division and held chancery court on the fourth Monday in March and September.
16. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 438, amended Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, by reorganizing the first and second chancery divisions. Greene County was placed in the first chancery division along with Sullivan, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Unicoi, Cocke, Jefferson, Sevier and Blount counties. The time for holding the Greene County Chancery Court was set for the fourth Mondays in March and September.
17. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 407, set the terms of the Greene County Chancery Court on the first Mondays in May and November.

18. Private Acts of 1929, Chapter 517, detached Greene County from the first chancery division and placed it in the thirteenth chancery division.
19. Public Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 38, divided the state into chancery divisions. Greene County was placed in the thirteenth chancery division. The time for holding said court was set for the first Mondays in May and November.
20. Public Acts of 1941, Chapter 160, amended Public Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 38, by changing the time for holding the Greene County Chancery Court to the fourth Mondays in April and October.

### **Chancery Court - Clerk and Master**

The reference list below contains acts which once applied to the clerk and master in Greene County. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1917, Chapter 47, set the salary of the Greene County Chancery Clerk to \$2,000 per annum.
2. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 156, set the salary of the clerk and master at \$2,500 per annum, but this act was repealed by Private Acts of 1923, Chapter 629.
3. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 826, set the maximum salary of the clerk and master at \$2,500 annually, and provided that this amount could be paid only out of the fees of that office.

### **Circuit Court**

The following acts were once applicable to the circuit court of Greene County but now have no effect, having been repealed, superseded, or having failed to win local approval. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1809, 1st Sess., Chapter 49, divided the state into five judicial circuits and placed Greene County in the first circuit, along with Washington, Carter, Sullivan, Hawkins, Grainger, Claiborne, and Campbell counties. This act also set the time for holding circuit court in Greene County to the first Mondays in March and September.
2. Acts of 1815, Chapter 151, changed the days for holding the Greene County Circuit Court to the last Mondays in February and August.
3. Acts of 1817, Chapter 132, changed the days for holding the Greene County Circuit Court, to the first Mondays in March and September.
4. Private Acts of 1823, Chapter 150, provided that when there were five Mondays in August, the circuit court term was to begin on the fifth Monday in August rather than on the first Monday in September.
5. Public Acts of 1824, Chapter 27, Section 2, repealed any act that provided for the holding of a special term of the Greene County Circuit Court.
6. Public Acts of 1824, Chapter 156, Section 7, authorized the circuit court of Greene County to hold a special term.
7. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 5, established eleven judicial circuits throughout the state. The first judicial district was composed of the counties of Greene, Washington, Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Hawkins, Grainger and Claiborne.
8. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 3, amended Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 5, by increasing the number of judicial circuits to fourteen.
9. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 116, changed the times of the Greene County Circuit Court and added an additional term, to be held on the second Mondays of February, June, and October.
10. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 98, prescribed the times of holding the circuit courts of the state. In the first judicial circuit, Greene County held its court on the second Mondays of February, June and October.
11. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 31, laid the state off into judicial circuits. The first judicial circuit was composed of the counties of Hancock, Hawkins, Greene, Carter, Johnson, Sullivan, Washington and Boone.
12. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 46, fixed the times of holding the circuit courts of the state. The circuit court of Greene County was set for the second Mondays of January, May and September.
13. Acts of 1885, Ex. Sess., Chapter 20, divided the state into judicial circuits. Greene County was placed in the first judicial circuit along with Johnson, Carter, Sullivan, Washington, Unicoi, Hawkins and Hancock counties. Greene County held its circuit court on the second Mondays in



February, June and October.

14. Public Acts of 1889, Chapter 74, fixed the time for holding the circuit court of Greene County to the first Mondays after the fourth Mondays in January, May and September.
15. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, divided the state into judicial circuits. Greene County was placed in the first judicial circuit. The times of holding circuit court in Greene County was set for the fourth Monday in February, June, and October.
16. Acts of 1903, Chapter 198, provided that circuit court in Greene County would begin its terms on the fourth Mondays in February, June, and October. This was amended by Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 202, to change those days to the second Mondays in March, July, and November.
17. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 303, set the days for holding circuit and law court in Greene County on the first Mondays in April, August, and December.
18. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 276, enabled the cities, towns, villages and other public or private corporations to locate, relocate and construct places of interment, highways and other public betterments upon being found that each proposal was in the interest of the general public by the circuit court of Greene County.
19. Public Acts of 1925, Chapter 35, placed the counties of Greene, Hawkins, Hamblen and Sullivan into the twentieth judicial circuit of Tennessee.
20. Public Acts of 1925, Chapter 94, fixed the time and place of holding the Greene County Chancery Court to the second Mondays in February, June and October at Greenville.
21. Public Acts of 1931 (2nd Ex. Sess.), Chapter 38, reorganized Tennessee's judicial structure into fourteen chancery divisions. The thirteenth judicial circuit was composed of Cocke, Blount, Hamblen, Sevier, Greene, Jefferson, Grainger, and Union counties. The circuit court of Greene County was set for the first Monday in May and November.
22. Public Acts of 1972, Chapter 515, created the twenty-seventh judicial district which was composed of the counties of Greene, Hawkins and Hamblen. Greene County was scheduled to hold its circuit court on the first Mondays in June, October and February.

#### **Circuit Court - Clerk**

The following acts have no current effect, but once applied to the Greene County Circuit Court Clerk. They were repealed, superseded, or never received local approval.

1. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 64, provided that Valentine Sevier, the circuit court clerk of Greene County, was to receive \$144.62, the amount due him from the State of Tennessee for his assistance in the case against Henry Smith for passing counterfeit money.
2. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 172, made unmarried women over the age of twenty-one eligible to serve as deputy clerks in the circuit court or any other court. This act also provided that marriage of such a female deputy would act as an immediate disqualification of that office.
3. Private Acts of 1917, Chapter 772, sets the annual salary of the circuit court clerk at \$1,200, and provided that the clerk could retain any fees collected by his office which were over and above this amount. This was amended by Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 90, which raised that salary to \$2,000 annually.
4. Public Acts of 1917, Chapter 47, set the annual salary of the Greene County Circuit Court Clerk to \$2,000.
5. Private Acts of 1933, Chapter 830, set the salary of the circuit court clerk at \$2,000 annually, and was amended by Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 23, to provide that the circuit court clerk could keep any excess fees collected by his office, over and above this amount. This act was also amended by Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 744, to raise that salary to \$2,600 annually and again by Private Acts of 1953, Chapter 551, to set his salary at \$5,000 per year.

#### **Criminal Court**

The following acts once pertained to the Greene County Criminal Court, but are no longer current law.

1. Public Acts of 1867-68, Chapter 90, Section 5, created a criminal judicial district which consisted of the counties of Greene, Johnson, Carter, Washington, Sullivan, Hawkins, Hancock, Cocke, Jefferson, Grainger and Claiborne. The time for holding the Greene County Criminal Court was set for the first Mondays in March, July and November.
2. Private Acts of 1925, Chapter 131, created a separate criminal court for Washington, Greene, Unicoi, Carter, and Sullivan counties.
3. Public Acts of 1925, Chapter 16, created and established a criminal court in Greene County. The

time for holding said court was set for the fourth Mondays in March, July and November in Greenville.

**District Attorney General - Assistants and Criminal Investigators**

The following act once affecting Greene County, is no longer in effect but is listed here for historical purposes.

1. Acts of 1817, Chapter 65, Section 3, established solicitorial districts throughout the state. The first solicitorial district was composed of the counties of Greene, Washington, Carter and Sullivan.

**General Sessions Court**

The following acts are included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 1, attempted to create a general sessions court and clerk for Greene County, but this act was rejected by the quarterly county court and never became an effective law.
2. Private Acts of 2017, Chapter 15, amended Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 170, to create two divisions within the General Sessions Court in Greene County and establish the office of a second judge to preside over the second division. The act was not adopted by the county legislative body.

---

**Source URL:** <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/chapter-v-court-system-70>