



November 22, 2024

Chapter V - Court System

Dear Reader:

The following document was created from the CTAS website (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

Chapter V - Court System	3
Chancery Court	3
Clerk and Master	3
Private Acts of 1953 Chapter 408	3
Public Acts of 1972 Chapter 780	3
Criminal Court	3
Wilson County Traffic Regulation Cost Act	3
Private Acts of 1997 Chapter 27	3
General Sessions Court	4
Division I and Division II	4
Private Acts of 1986 Chapter 174	4
Division III	6
Private Acts of 2007 Chapter 46	6
Private Acts of 2020, Chapter 48	7
Private Acts of 1945 Chapter 34	8
Court System - Historical Notes	10

Chapter V - Court System

Chancery Court

Clerk and Master

Private Acts of 1953 Chapter 408

SECTION 1. That the Chancellor of the Sixth Chancery Division of Tennessee is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint an assistant to the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court for Wilson County, Tennessee, to serve at his will.

SECTION 2. That said assistant perform such secretarial duties as may be required by the Clerk and Master, shall keep such books and records of the office and perform such other related duties as may be required in the discharge of the duties of said office.

SECTION 3. That upon the appointment of such an assistant by the Chancellor, he shall notify the County Judge of said appointment in writing and said assistant shall thereafter be paid by the County from the General Fund not to exceed Six Thousand Six Hundred (\$6,600.00) Dollars per annum, payable in equal monthly installments as provided by the Chancellor in his appointment.

As amended by:

- Private Acts of 1959, Chapter 3
- Private Acts of 1963, Chapter 291
- Private Acts of 1967-68, Chapter 9
- Private Acts of 1971, Chapter 180
- Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 248

SECTION 4. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 2, 1953.

Public Acts of 1972 Chapter 780

COMPILER'S NOTE: The following act is a public act of special application and is not codified in [Tennessee Code Annotated](#).

SECTION 1. The Chancellor of the Seventeenth Chancery Division of Tennessee is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a second assistant to the Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court for Wilson County, Tennessee, to serve at his will.

SECTION 2. The second assistant shall perform such secretarial duties as may be required by the Clerk and Master, shall keep such books and records of the office and perform such other related duties as may be required in the discharge of the duties of said office.

SECTION 3. Upon the appointment of the second assistant by the Chancellor, he shall notify the county judge of said appointment in writing and said assistant shall thereafter be paid by the county from the general fund the sum of five thousand, seven hundred dollars (\$5,700.00) per annum, payable in equal monthly installments.

As amended by: Public Acts of 1974, Chapter 546

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: April 7, 1972.

Criminal Court

Wilson County Traffic Regulation Cost Act

Private Acts of 1997 Chapter 27

SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Wilson County Traffic Regulation Cost Act".

SECTION 2. It is the intent and purpose of this act to require and authorize the collection

of a special court cost for each summons, warrant, citation, presentment or indictment which is filed and heard with the Criminal Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, or the General Sessions Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, and which involves conduct or events occurring within Wilson County but outside the city limits of Lebanon, Mt. Juliet and Watertown, Tennessee, that lead to the filing of charges for a criminal and/or traffic offense, and which involves prosecution by a county officer.

SECTION 3. The special court cost authorized under this act is ten dollars (\$10.00) and shall be charged and collected over and above other authorized court costs by the clerk of the Criminal Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, and the Clerk of the General Sessions Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, as provided herein.

SECTION 4. The court cost funds shall be collected by the clerks for all criminal and/or traffic violations which are prosecuted by county officers in Wilson County, Tennessee, and which involve offenses arising from conduct occurring within Wilson County but outside the city limits of Lebanon, Mt. Juliet and Watertown, Tennessee.

SECTION 5. The funds collected from this special court cost by the clerks shall be transferred to the Wilson County Trustee on a monthly basis, and the trustee shall establish a special fund to allow such monies to be used by Wilson County, Tennessee, for traffic regulation and enforcement.

SECTION 6. All funds collected under the provisions of this act shall be used for the purpose of traffic regulation and enforcement within Wilson County but outside the city limits of Lebanon, Mt. Juliet and Watertown, Tennessee.

SECTION 7. The Provisions of this act shall in no manner repeal, modify or interfere with the requirements to collect court costs under any other public or private laws applicable to Wilson County, Lebanon, Mt. Juliet, and Watertown, Tennessee.

SECTION 8. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 9. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the county legislative body of Wilson County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the county legislative body of Wilson County and certified to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 10. 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 9.

Passed: April 3, 1997.

General Sessions Court

Division I and Division II

Private Acts of 1986 Chapter 174

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION. There is hereby designated a "Division I, Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee," which shall consist of the presently-existing General Sessions Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, as established by Chapter 34 of the Private Acts of 1945 and all other Acts amendatory thereto.

SECTION 2. CREATION. There is hereby created and established another court in and for Wilson County, Tennessee, which shall be designated "Division II, Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee".

SECTION 3. JURISDICTION. The Division I, Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall retain the jurisdiction previously conferred upon it. The Division II of the Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, as herein created, is hereby vested and conferred with concurrent jurisdiction with Division I over all matters presently under the jurisdiction of Division I, including criminal cases, civil cases, probate cases and juvenile cases. In addition, Divisions I and II are hereby vested and shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court and Chancery Court in Wilson County over domestic matters and shall have the powers vested in the Circuit Judge and Chancellor by the general laws of the State of Tennessee over domestic matters. It is the intent of this Act to vest and confer upon both Division I and Division II equal and concurrent jurisdiction.

SECTION 4. ASSIGNMENT OF CASES. Effective with the start of the business day on September 1, 1986, the General Sessions Court Clerk shall assign to Division I all criminal cases and traffic cases and shall assign to Division II all civil cases including cases involving divorce and domestic matters filed in said court. On the said date, the County Clerk of Wilson County shall henceforth assign all juvenile cases to Division I and shall assign all probate cases to Division II.

In the event the said assignment directions shall result in an unequal work load for either division, the judges of the two divisions may alter the assignment directions by orders directed to the appropriate clerk signed by both judges establishing a modification of the assignment directions.

SECTION 5. INTERCHANGE. The judge of Division I and the judge of Division II shall be empowered from time to time to freely interchange one from the other to hold such respective courts.

SECTION 6. CLERKS OF THE COURT. The County Clerk of Wilson County, Tennessee shall act as the clerk of Division I and Division II Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee when acting and performing the duties associated with probate and juvenile matters and shall maintain such minute books and other necessary records for such courts as may be necessary and required by law. The Circuit Court Clerk of Wilson County, Tennessee shall be the clerk of the Division I and Division II Courts of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee to the extent that such court perform the duties, powers and functions associated with all other matters and shall, subject to the jurisdiction of the court, maintain such minute books and other records as may be required by law. The clerks, when performing their duties, shall charge all fees and shall be entitled to receive such fees and charges as shall be fixed from time to time for said county by the General Laws of the State of Tennessee. All such fees, when collected, shall be fully accounted for and disbursed as fees and charges as is similarly done by the other courts operating and functioning in Wilson County, Tennessee.

SECTION 7. JUDICIAL AUTHORITY. The judges of the Division I and Division II, Courts of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall have all authority and jurisdiction to punish for contempt, to issue extraordinary writs and processes including fiats, restraining orders, and injunctions and to compel compliance with its final decree, judgment and orders, as now or shall hereafter be exercised by a judge or chancellor or any Circuit and General Sessions Court of the State of Tennessee.

SECTION 8. QUALIFICATIONS AND ELECTION OF JUDGE. There shall be one judge for the Division II, Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee herein created who shall be duly licensed to practice law within the State of Tennessee, and who shall be at least thirty (30) years of age at the time of his election or appointment, and who shall otherwise have all the qualifications and shall have the same term as provided by the Constitution of the State of Tennessee for inferior court judges, and who shall take the same oath as shall be required for the other judges of the State of Tennessee. The position which is to be filled in accordance with the terms hereof shall be a full time position, and the person elected shall not be permitted to have an outside practice of law. The judge of Division II of Wilson County, Tennessee shall serve for a four (4) year initial period of time, which coincides with that of the present General Sessions Judge whose term expires August 31, 1990. There-after the judge of Division II shall serve for a full eight (8) year term. The judge of Division II shall be elected at the General Election held in August, 1986.

SECTION 9. COURT OF RECORD. Division I and Division II of the Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall when required by law be treated and considered as a court of record and such court shall be in continuous sessions without the intervention of any term or terms, it being provided herein that such court shall be held by the judge thereof at such time and during such period as shall be required to provide for the orderly dispatch and disposition of all business properly coming before it.

SECTION 10. PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE. The Judges of Division I and Division II shall from time to time be authorized and empowered to adopt joint rules of practice and procedure for the courts provided that they are not inconsistent with the substantive and procedural laws of the State of Tennessee relative to the matters of the jurisdiction of the courts or that they shall not otherwise be inconsistent with such rules as may be from time to time promulgated by any superior court having supervisory jurisdiction over the courts.

SECTION 11. COMPENSATION OF JUDGES. The compensation of the Judge of Division II shall be the same as the compensation of the Judge of Division I.

SECTION 12. LITIGATION TAX. There is hereby levied and imposed on each and every criminal case, traffic case and juvenile case, as applicable, filed on or after September 1, 1986 in either Division I or Division II of the General Sessions Court of Wilson County, Tennessee an additional litigation tax in the amount of \$2.25, which tax shall be paid to the General Fund of Wilson County, Tennessee.

SECTION 13. PROVISIONS SEVERABLE. Every position of this Act is declared to be severable and should any portion of the same be held inconsistent or invalid for any reason, the same shall not affect the

remainder of this Act, it being the intent herein that such unconstitutionally-declared portions shall be deleted and that the General Assembly would have enacted this Act with such unconstitutional or invalid portions deleted therefrom.

SECTION 14. APPROVAL OF COUNTY COMMISSION. This Act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Wilson County Board of County Commissioners on or before May 20, 1986. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the said board and certified by him to the Secretary of State.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF APPROVING OR REJECTING THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT. 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 14.

Passed: April 7, 1986.

Division III

Private Acts of 2007 Chapter 46

SECTION 1. Chapter 34 of the Private Acts of 1945, as amended by Chapter 174 of the Private Acts of 1986, and all other acts amendatory thereto, is amended by adding the following new sections:

SECTION ____. There is hereby created and established another court in and for Wilson County, Tennessee, which shall be designated, "Division III, Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee."

SECTION ____. Division I and II, Courts of general Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall retain the jurisdiction previously conferred upon them. Division III of the Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, as herein created, is vested and conferred with concurrent jurisdiction with Divisions I and II and shall have full authority to preside over Divisions I and II, including criminal, civil, probate, juvenile and domestic relations cases, however; Division III, Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall be limited to domestic relations and civil cases, probate cases and juvenile custody and child support cases. Division III, along with Division I and II, shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Court and Chancery Court in Wilson County over domestic matters and shall have the powers vested in the Circuit Judge and Chancellor by the general laws of the State of Tennessee over domestic matters. It is the intent of this act to give equal concurrent jurisdiction to Division I, II, and III Courts of General Sessions for Wilson County, Tennessee, but Division III shall be assigned only civil, domestic relations and probate cases as well as those juvenile cases where the issue is setting, establishing and enforcing child support, as well as custody issues.

SECTION ____. Effective with the appointment of a judge by the Wilson County Board of County Commissioners or with the term of the elected judge beginning on September 1, 2008, the General Sessions Court Clerk shall assign to Division III all civil, domestic relations and juvenile cases related to establishing and enforcing child support and custody issues. On that date, the Clerk and Master for Wilson County shall assign all probate cases to Division III.

SECTION ____. The Judge of Division I, Division II and Division III, shall be empowered from time to time to freely interchange one from the other to hold such respective courts.

SECTION ____. The Clerk and Master of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall act as the Clerk of Division III Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, when acting and performing the duties associated with probate matters and shall maintain such minute books and other necessary records for such courts as may be necessary and required by law. The Circuit Court Clerk of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall be the Clerk of Division I, Division II, and Division III Courts of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, to the extent that such court performs the duties, powers and functions associated with all other matters and shall, subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, maintain such minute books and other records as may be required by law. The Clerks, when performing their duties shall charge all fees and shall be entitled to receive such fees and charges as shall be fixed from time to time for the county by the general laws of the State of Tennessee. All such fees, when collected, shall be fully accounted for and disbursed as fees and charges as is similarly done by the other courts operating and functioning in Wilson County, Tennessee.

SECTION ____. The judges of the Division I, Division II and Division III of the General Sessions Court of Wilson County, Tennessee, shall have all authority and jurisdiction to punish for contempt, to issue extraordinary writs and processes including fiats, restraining orders, and injunctions and to

compel compliance with its final decrees, judgments and orders, as now or shall hereafter be exercised by a judge or chancellor or any circuit and general sessions court of the state of Tennessee.

SECTION ____. There is created the position of judge for the Division III Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee, created by this act. The judge of Division III shall be appointed by the Wilson County Board of County Commissioners as provided by law. The judge so appointed shall serve until August 31, 2008 or until such judge's successor is elected and qualified. At the August general election in 2008, the qualified voters of Wilson County shall elect a person to serve as judge of Division III of the Court of General Sessions for such county. The person so elected shall commence service on September 1, 2008 and serve until August 31, 2014, or until such judge's successor is elected and qualified. Thereafter a judge for Division III shall be elected for a full eight (8) year term.

The person initially appointed to serve as judge of Division III and all persons elected or appointed to such office thereafter shall be duly licensed to practice law in the state of Tennessee, at least thirty (30) years of age at the time of his or her election or appointment, and otherwise have all the qualifications and serve the same term as provided by the constitution of the state of Tennessee for inferior court judges. The person so appointed or elected shall take the same oath as shall be required for the other judges of the state of Tennessee. The position of judge for Division III shall be a full time position, and the person elected shall not be permitted to have an outside practice of law.

SECTION ____. Division I, Division II and Division III of the Court of General Sessions of Wilson County, Tennessee shall, when required by law, be treated and considered as a court of record and such court shall be in continuous sessions without the intervention of any term or terms, it being provided herein that such court shall be held by the judge thereof at such time and during such period as shall be required to provide for the orderly dispatch and disposition of all business properly coming before it.

SECTION ____. The Judges of Division I, Division II and Division III shall from time to time be authorized and empowered to adopt joint rules of practice and procedure for the courts provided that they are not inconsistent with the substantive and procedural laws of the State of Tennessee relative to the matters of the jurisdiction of the courts or that they shall not otherwise be inconsistent with such rules as may be from time to time promulgated by any superior court having supervisory jurisdiction over the courts.

SECTION ____. Compensation of the Judge of Division III shall be the same as the compensation of the Judge of Division I and Division II.

SECTION ____. Upon the appointment or election of the Judge of the General Sessions Court, Division III, the three General Sessions Judges shall vote upon and select one (1) of the three (3) judges to serve as the presiding judge for a one-year term. Such term shall run from September 1st through August 31st annually. The presiding judge shall designate the future assignment of cases so as to equalize the case load, however, Division III shall only be assigned cases that do not require the attention or presence of the District Attorney General's staff nor the District Public Defender's staff.

SECTION 2. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

SECTION 3. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of Wilson County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Wilson 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 as provided in Section 3.

Passed: May 10, 2007.

Private Acts of 2020, Chapter 48

SECTION 1. Chapter 34 of the Private Acts of 1945, as amended by Chapter 17 4 of the Private Acts of 1986, Chapter 46 of the Private Acts of 2007, and all other acts amendatory thereto, is amended by

adding the following as a new section:

The Judge of the General Sessions Court, Division III, shall be empowered from time to time to freely interchange with the judges of the Circuit and Chancery Courts in Wilson County for matters of domestic relations and probate.

SECTION 2. This act shall have no effect unless it is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the legislative body of Wilson County. Its approval or nonapproval shall be proclaimed by the presiding officer of the Wilson County legislative body and certified to the secretary of state.

SECTION 3. 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 as provided in Section 2.

Passed: July 15, 2020.

Private Acts of 1945 Chapter 34

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

Said County shall provide a court room in the Courthouse in Lebanon, Tennessee, dockets, furnishings and necessary supplies for the equipment and maintenance of said Court, and pay for the same out of the ordinary funds of said County, and the Judge of the Court of General Sessions of said County will hold the Court and try cases in such courtroom so provided.

However, whenever the convenience of litigants and witnesses demand that the Judge of said Court hear or try a case or cases in any part or locality of Wilson County other than Lebanon, Tennessee, the Judge of said Court of General Sessions is hereby vested with the discretionary authority and power to set the trial and hearing of such case or cases at such place in Wilson County as he deems will be convenient and accessible to the litigants and witnesses.

SECTION 2. That said Court of General Sessions is hereby vested with all of the jurisdiction and shall exercise the authority conferred by the General Assembly of Tennessee upon Justices of the Peace in civil and criminal cases, suits and actions; and the Justices of the Peace of said County are hereby divested of all such jurisdiction and authority, but any Justice of the Peace of said County elected for any district may issue criminal and search warrants against and accept appearance bonds from any person charged with an offense, and may issue civil process on any cause of action heretofore triable by a Justice of the Peace, such warrants and process to be returnable to and triable by said Court of General Sessions. The authority of said Justices of the Peace in their capacity as members of the Quarterly Court or in the performance of the rites of matrimony or to administer oaths is in no wise affected by this Act. That in addition to the other jurisdiction conferred upon the Judge of said Court of General Sessions, he is hereby vested with and shall have interchangeable and concurrent jurisdiction with the Chancery, Circuit and Criminal Courts to grant fiats for writs of injunction and attachment.

SECTION 3. That before any civil case shall be tried or judgment rendered in said Court the plaintiff shall secure the costs by executing a cost bond with good security in the sum of \$25.00, or by making a cash cost deposit of not less than \$5.00 or more than \$25.00, or shall take the oath prescribed for poor persons, in lieu of a bond, and on motion, the Court may increase the amount of such bond or deposit.

SECTION 4. That the rules of pleadings and practice, forms of writs and process and stay of and appeals from judgments in civil cases of said Court shall be the same as of Justices of the Peace.

SECTION 5. That in all matters the costs and fees of said Court of General Sessions shall be the same as those provided by law for Justices of the Peace. The fees and other compensation of the Sheriff, his deputies, constables, game wardens and State highway patrolmen for the execution of writs and process of said Court, and the attendance and mileage of witnesses testifying under subpoena in said Court of General Sessions shall be as follows: \$1.00 per day for each day's necessary attendance, under subpoena, where the witnesses live in Wilson County.

Also, when the said witnesses reside at a greater distance than ten miles from the place of trial, 4¢ per mile for going to and returning from Court where they live in Wilson County. Where the witnesses attending said Court under subpoena live out of said County, \$1.50 for each day's necessary attendance and 5¢ per mile for every mile traveled in going to and from such Court.

The fees and compensation due for services rendered by said Court of General Sessions shall be paid to the Clerk of said Court and by him accounted for as hereinafter provided. Said costs, fees and mileage of witnesses, the fees, commissions and emoluments of the Sheriff, his deputies, constables, state highway patrolmen, game wardens and other officers, for services to said Court, and the fines and forfeitures

adjudged by it shall be handled, accounted for and disbursed as required by law.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 301

SECTION 6. That separate dockets shall be kept in said Court for civil and criminal cases. Upon the civil docket shall be entered the style of each case, the date of issuance of the warrant or process and the return of the process, in brief form, action of the Court on the case, both interlocutory and final orders, judgments, executions, garnishments, lists of the fees of the Court, the Sheriff, his deputies, constables, game wardens and state highway patrolmen for their services, fees of witnesses for attendance, et cetera, and credits for payments upon the judgment and upon the costs. All cases shall be indexed and the dockets shall be substantially in the form of those of Justices of the Peace.

The Criminal Docket shall be kept in like manner.

SECTION 7. That there shall be one Judge for said Court, with the same qualifications and term of office as provided by the Constitution of the State of Tennessee for Judges of inferior Courts; and the oath shall be the same as that prescribed for Circuit Judges and Chancellors. The Judge of such Court shall be a person licensed to practice law in the State of Tennessee.

The Judge of said General Sessions Court shall be incompetent to sit on and to try cases in the instances provided by the Code of Tennessee, as set out in Section 9892 thereof. The Judge of said General Sessions Court is prohibited from accepting employment as an attorney or counsel in any case or lawsuit originating in his said Court or in any case or lawsuit in Wilson County, Tennessee, of which said Court of General Sessions is given jurisdiction to try by this Act or by the law of Tennessee. He may accept employment in all cases or legal matters which do not originate in and of which said Court of General Sessions Court is not given jurisdiction by this Act or by the law of Tennessee.

SECTION 8. That the compensation of said Judge shall be Three Thousand (\$3,000.00) Dollars per annum, payable in equal monthly installments. It shall be paid out of the ordinary funds of the County, and shall not be decreased during the term for which said Judge is elected.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 444

SECTION 9. That Thomas A. Sexton, Attorney, Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee, is hereby appointed first Judge of said Court and he shall serve until the first day of September, 1946, and until a successor has been elected and qualified. His successor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the County, at the election for judicial and other civil officers on the first Thursday of August, 1946, and shall hold said office from the 1st day of September, 1946, until the 1st day of September, 1950, or until his successor is elected and qualified.

His successor shall be elected every eight years at such election for the term provided by law for Judges of inferior courts.

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

SECTION 11. That in the case of a vacancy in the office of such Judge for any cause, the Governor shall have the power to appoint some qualified person to fill such vacancy.

SECTION 12. That the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Criminal Courts of said County shall act as Clerk of said Court of General Sessions, and when acting as Clerk of said Court shall be designated "Clerk of Court of General Sessions of Wilson County." The fees, commissions and emoluments of said Court of General Sessions and of said Clerk of said Court shall accrue to said County, and such fees, commissions and emoluments shall be in the amounts as those which Justices of the Peace are authorized to tax, charge, receive and collect under the law of the State of Tennessee.

The Clerk of said Court shall receive compensation for his services in the sum of Twelve Hundred (\$1,200.00) Dollars per annum, payable in equal monthly installments, out of the ordinary funds of said County, and he shall pay to said Court monthly, all fees, fines, commissions and emoluments of said Court of General Sessions and of the Clerk thereof.

The Clerk of said Court and his deputies shall have concurrent authority with the Judge thereof to issue warrants and other processes and writs, other than those which the law requires shall be issued only by a judicial officer.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 444, Page 1189.

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 this Act shall in no wise impair the right, title or interest of any Justice of the Peace of said County to any unpaid fees, or funds 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.

SECTION 15. That all of the official dockets, records and papers in cases which are undisposed of or pending in the offices of Justices of the Peace of said County at the time this Act becomes effective shall be delivered to said Court of General Sessions. The official dockets, records, and papers in possession of Justices of the Peace of said County, in cases which have been completed, shall be turned over to said County, as provided by law.

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 said County as if such cases had originated in said Court of General Sessions, and to issue executions on and orders concerning any unsatisfied judgments on the dockets of said Justices of the Peace, and certify as to any such judgments or records, as such Justices of the Peace could do, but for this Act.

SECTION 17. That the General Assembly expressly declares that each section, subsection, 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 General Assembly declares that it would have enacted this Act with such unconstitutional or invalid portions elided therefrom.

SECTION 18. That this Act shall take effect from and after its passage, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: January 16, 1945.

Court System - Historical Notes

Board of Jury Commissioners- Jurors

The following acts once affected jurors or boards of jury commissioners in Wilson County, but are no longer operative.

1. Acts of 1799, Chapter 40, provided that from and after the passage of this Act, the counties in the Mero District of Tennessee were required to send jurors to the Superior Courts according to this Act. Davidson County would send ten jurors; Sumner County, seven jurors; Smith County, four jurors; Wilson County, four jurors; Robertson County, five jurors; Montgomery County, five jurors; and Williamson County, five jurors.
2. Acts of 1803, Chapter 73, was an apportionment of jurors to be furnished by the counties to the Superior Court of the Mero District. In this Act Wilson County's quota was three.
3. Acts of 1806, Chapter 24, re-annexed Wilson County to the Mero District and apportioned the number of jurors to be provided by the counties of the Mero District. Davidson County would be obligated to furnish twelve jurors; Sumner County, eight; Wilson County, six jurors; Williamson County, eight; and Rutherford County, five jurors.
4. Acts of 1817, Chapter 128, made it lawful for the Justices of the Peace of the counties of Davidson, Smith, Rutherford, Franklin, Maury, Lincoln, Giles, Overton, Bedford, Wilson, Hickman, Sumner, Stewart, Humphreys, Williamson, Jackson, White, Montgomery, Warren, Robertson and Dickson to levy a tax in their respective counties to pay jurors some added compensation for attending the County and Circuit Courts, but the added pay could not exceed fifty cents per day.
5. Private Acts of 1909, Chapter 334, created a Board of Jury Commissioners in Wilson County and Rutherford County. The Board would consist of three discreet householders and freeholders of the County appointed by the Circuit Judge, or Judges having criminal jurisdiction, who were not practicing attorneys, who had no suit pending in the Courts, and no more than two of whom could belong to the same political party, and who would serve terms of one year. Vacancies were to be filled in the same manner. After being sworn according to the oath in the Act, the Commissioners would organize by choosing a Chairman. The Circuit Court Clerk or his Deputy, also being sworn, would be the Clerk to the Commissioners. The Commissioners would select qualified people as potential jurors from the tax rolls, no more than 1,000 nor less than 250, equal to one-fifth of the number of votes cast in the last presidential election. Those chosen would constitute the jury list for the next two years. Their names would be entered alphabetically in a book and the list would be certified by all three Commissioners. The names were also to be put on slips of paper and placed in a Jury Box to be locked and sealed, and never opened except in the presence of the Board or the Judge. Ten to fifteen days before the term of Court, the Box would be opened in the presence of the Board and a child under ten years of age would draw out the number of names

specified to serve as jurors for the ensuing term of Court. Those names not serving would be returned to the Box. The Commissioners would be paid \$2 for each day of service devoted to making up jury lists.

6. Private Acts of 1915, Chapter 95, stated that every regular juror serving in the courts of Wilson county was entitled to be paid \$2 for each day's service plus four cents per mile going and returning from home to court, all of which would be paid out of the county treasury. Tales jury men were to be paid the same under certain circumstances.
7. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 350, fixed the pay of all jurors in Wilson County at \$2 per day for each day's service as a juror, and four cents per mile travel each way between home and court but only for one trip per term. Tales jury men would be paid at the same rate for every day they served as jurors, plus the same amount of mileage. All of the compensation was to come out of the ordinary county funds.
8. Private Acts of 1947, Chapter 401, amended Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 350, by increasing the per diem rate for jurors from \$2 to \$3 and the mileage payments from four cents to five cents, all other conditions to remain the same.
9. Private Acts of 1951, Chapter 212, amended Private Acts of 1909, Chapter 334, but only as to remove Rutherford County from its provisions.
10. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 139, would have set the compensation of the members of the Board of Jury Commissioners of Wilson County, acting for the Circuit and Criminal Court, as was provided by Private Acts of 1909, Chapter 334, at \$10 per day for each day's service in making up jury lists. The same would be paid out of the county treasury on the warrant of the County Judge. The Clerk who served as the Secretary of the Board would likewise be paid \$10 for each day's service. This Act was not approved by the Wilson County Quarterly Court and never became an effective law.

Chancery Court

The following acts form an outline of the development of equity jurisdiction in Wilson 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. Acts of 1806, Chapter 19, divided the Mero District into three separate judicial districts. The new Winchester District contained the counties of Jackson, Smith and Wilson which would hold two superior courts of law and a court of equity in the town of Carthage. Court would commence on the third Mondays of October and April.
2. Public Acts of 1822, Chapter 13, provided that the Chancery Courts of Tennessee would be held by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals at the present places where the Supreme Court met at least once each year. The Court would be held at Rogersville on the first Monday in November, at Knoxville on the third Monday of November, at Charlotte on the fourth Monday in December, at Sparta on the second Monday in December, at Nashville on the fourth Monday in January, and at Columbia on the second Monday in January. The terms would continue for two weeks unless the dockets were cleared at an earlier time. The judges of the Supreme Court would possess original equity jurisdiction and the Clerks of the Supreme Court in each circuit would serve as Clerks and Masters.
3. Public Acts of 1824 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 14, required the Judges of the Supreme Court to arrange among themselves to hold the Chancery Courts at the places specified at least twice each year. The Chancery Court at Carthage would hear cases from the counties of Overton, Fentress, Jackson, Smith, Sumner, and Wilson on the third Monday in May and November of each year. The Judges would appoint Clerks and Masters for the Chancery Courts.
4. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 79, divided the State into two Chancery Divisions; the Eastern, composed of the courts of Rogersville, Greenville, Kingston, Carthage, and McMinnville, and the Western which contained the Chancery Courts meeting at Franklin, Columbia, Charlotte, Jackson, and Paris. The judges of the Supreme Court were divested of original chancery jurisdiction and the General Assembly was to elect two Chancellors by joint ballot.
5. Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 88, amended Public Acts of 1827, Chapter 79, by requiring that Chancellors hold the Chancery Courts of Tennessee at least twice each year at the places named in the Act. The Court at Carthage had jurisdiction over causes arising in the counties of Overton, Fentress, Jackson, Smith, Sumner, and Wilson and would meet on the third Monday in July and January.
6. Public Acts of 1829, Chapter 103, Section 3, changed the opening dates of the terms of the Chancery Court at Carthage to the second Monday in January and July instead of the third

Monday.

7. Public Acts of 1832, Chapter 19, moved the terms of the Chancery Court at Carthage to the third Monday in January and July to continue for two weeks and all process was made to conform to the change in dates.
8. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 3, enacted to implement the new State Constitution, provided for a three member Supreme Court, one Judge being selected from each of the Grand Divisions of the State, who would be appointed by the General Assembly. The Judges, after being sworn and commissioned, would meet at least once each year at Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson. Wilson County, plus 23 other counties, was in the Middle Division of the State.
9. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 4, arranged for the Chancery Courts to have Chancellors to preside over them who would be appointed by the General Assembly and commissioned by the Governor. The State was divided into three Chancery Divisions each of which was further broken down into Districts. Wilson County made up the Fourth District of the Middle Division whose Court would open at Lebanon on the fourth Monday of January and July.
10. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 116, Section 13, rearranged the schedule for court terms of Chancery Court in some counties of the Middle Division of Tennessee. The Fourth District Chancery Court would convene at Lebanon on the third Monday in January and July.
11. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 21, set the Chancery Court terms for the Fourth District of Middle Tennessee to begin on the second Monday in January and July at Lebanon.
12. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 161, changed the terms of the Chancery Courts for Bedford County, Warren County, and Wilson County. Wilson County's Court would begin on the third Monday in January and July.
13. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 132, Section 4, provided that the Chancery Court of Wilson County at Lebanon would hereafter be held on the first Monday in January and July.
14. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 88, divided Tennessee into the Eastern, Middle, Western, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Chancery Divisions. The Fourth Chancery Division included the counties of Macon, Jackson, Putnam, Smith, Coffee, Franklin, Lincoln, Bedford, Sumner, DeKalb, Warren, Van Buren, Grundy, Cannon, Rutherford, and Wilson whose Court terms were to start on the first Monday in January and July at Lebanon.
15. Private Acts of 1859-60, Chapter 59, Section 7, stated that the Chancery Court terms in Wilson County would begin hereafter on the second Monday in April and October each year at Lebanon but the next term would start on the first Monday in July.
16. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 32, was a major reorganization of the lower judicial system of the State enacted pursuant to the 1870 Constitution. There would be twelve Chancery Divisions of which the Sixth Chancery District would be composed of the counties of Wilson, Sumner, Robertson, Montgomery, Stewart, Cheatham, and Trousdale.
17. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 47, scheduled court terms for the Chancery Courts of every county in the State. In Wilson County the Chancery Court would meet on the second Monday in June and December.
18. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 12, repealed the provisions of Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 47, as they applied to the Sixth Chancery Division and rescheduled the terms of the Courts in the Sixth Chancery Division. Wilson County's Chancery Court would open its regular terms on the third Monday in April and October to which dates all process was to conform.
19. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 62, Section 3, changed the opening dates of the Chancery Court terms in Wilson County to the second Monday in April and October.
20. Public Acts of 1877, Chapter 47, rearranged the terms of Court for the counties in the Sixth Chancery Division which included Sumner, Trousdale, Montgomery, Houston, Stewart, Cheatham, Robertson, and Wilson. Chancery Court terms would begin in Wilson on the fourth Monday in April and October at Lebanon.
21. Public Acts of 1879, Chapter 36, reset the terms of the Courts in the Sixth Chancery Division assigning Wilson County's Court to the third Monday in March and the fourth Monday in October.
22. Public Acts of 1883, Chapter 21, changed the court dates for some of the counties in the Sixth Chancery Division but Wilson County's Chancery Court remained on the third Monday in March and the fourth Monday in October.
23. Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, was an overhaul of the lower court system in Tennessee. Eleven Chancery Divisions were formed in the State in which process the counties of Sumner,

Robertson, Montgomery, Wilson, Stewart, Houston, Cheatham, Humphreys, and Trousdale were designated as the Eighth Chancery Division. The Court in Wilson County would continue to begin terms on the third Monday in March and the fourth Monday in October.

24. Public Acts of 1895, Chapter 13, removed Montgomery County from the 8th Chancery Division but made no other changes.
25. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, reorganized the lower judicial structure into ten Chancery Divisions. The Sixth Chancery Division was made up of the counties of Sumner, Robertson, Cheatham, Montgomery, Stewart, Houston, Dickson, Humphreys, Hickman, and Wilson. Wilson County's Court term would start on the second Monday in April and October.
26. Private Acts of 1905, Chapter 286, changed the opening dates of the regular terms of court in some of the counties in the Sixth Chancery Division but Wilson County remained on the second Mondays in April and October.
27. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 455, rescheduled the terms of court for the counties in the Sixth Chancery Division which included the counties of Cheatham, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, Sumner, and Wilson whose court would convene on the fourth Monday in May and November.
28. Public Acts of 1969, Chapter 198, was partially uncodified. It set terms for certain courts in Wilson County, provided for a new chancellor and made other provisions. T.C.A. 16-2-506 now provides Wilson County is part of the Fifteenth Judicial District and provides the number of judges. T.C.A. 16-2-510 abolishes terms of court.

Clerk and Master

The reference below contains an act which once applied to the clerk and master in Wilson County.

1. Public Acts of 1897, Chapter 124, fixed the annual salaries of various county officers according to the population class of the county in which they served. They would be deprived of all their fees, commissions, emoluments and perquisites of their office and would only receive the fixed salary in the Act. All fees would become the property of the County.

Circuit Court

The following acts were once applicable to the circuit court of Wilson County but now have no effect, having been repealed, superseded, or having failed to win local approval.

1. Acts of 1809, Chapter 49, formed five Judicial Circuits in Tennessee. The Fourth Judicial Circuit consisted of the counties of Davidson, Wilson, Rutherford, Williamson, Maury, Giles, Lincoln, and Bedford. The Circuit Court terms in Wilson County would commence on the fourth Monday in March and September.
2. Acts of 1812, Chapter 68, scheduled Circuit Court terms for several counties including Wilson whose Circuit Court would commence on the first Monday in March and September.
3. Acts of 1817, Chapter 138, scheduled the terms of the Circuit Courts in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Judicial Circuits. In Wilson County the regular terms of the Circuit Court would begin on the fourth Monday in April and October.
4. Private Acts of 1821, Chapter 127, stated that hereafter the Circuit Court of Wilson County would meet and commence its sessions as authorized by law and the Court would sit for two weeks unless the business of the Court was completed sooner.
5. Public Acts of 1829, Chapter 52, formed the Eleventh Judicial Circuit in Tennessee composed of the counties of Warren, Franklin, Bedford, Rutherford, and Wilson. A Judge would be appointed to hold the courts of the new circuit and be paid the same as other judges were paid.
6. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 5, pursuant to the new State Constitution divided Tennessee into eleven Judicial Circuits. The Fifth Circuit contained the counties of Wilson, Rutherford, Bedford, Coffee, and Franklin. There would henceforth be three annual terms of the Circuit Courts with Wilson County's terms to begin on the first Monday in March, July and November.
7. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 116, changed the regular terms of the Fifth Circuit Courts for the counties of Cannon, Rutherford, and Wilson where the Courts would meet on the first Monday of February, June, and October.
8. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 21, arranged the regular Circuit Court terms for the counties in the Fifth Judicial Circuit shifting Wilson County's Circuit Court to open on the fourth Monday in January, May and September.

9. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 171, established a Criminal Court of separate jurisdiction in Clarksville for Montgomery County, in Murfreesboro for Rutherford County, and in Lebanon for Wilson County which courts would be held by the Judge of the Criminal Court of Davidson County under the same rules prevailing in the Davidson County Criminal Court. All criminal cases pending in the counties mentioned were to be transferred to the Courts created herein. The Circuit Judges in these counties would continue to empanel a Grand Jury for the finding of bills of indictment. Three terms of Court would be held each year which were to be scheduled by the order of the Judge entered upon the Minute Book.
10. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 230, provided that the Circuit Court of Wilson County would in the future be held on the third Monday in January, May, and September, but the next term of Court would take place at the time now specified under the law.
11. Public Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 98, was a major revision of the lower court structure in Tennessee. The State was divided into sixteen Judicial Circuits of which the Seventh Judicial Circuit was made up of the counties of Cannon, Rutherford, Bedford, and Wilson. Wilson County's Circuit Court would open for regular terms on the third Monday in January, May, and September.
12. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 3, changed the terms of the Circuit Court in Wilson County from the third Monday to the second Monday in January, May, and September.
13. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 31, in conformity with the new 1870 State Constitution was a thorough reorganization of the state's lower court system. The Act established fifteen regular Judicial Circuits. The Seventh Judicial Circuit consisted of the counties of Rutherford, Cannon, Wilson, and Bedford, and the Criminal Court in Wilson County.
14. Public Acts of 1870, Chapter 46, scheduled the regular court terms for the Circuit Courts of all the counties in the State according to their Circuit. Wilson County's Circuit Court would open for regular terms on the second Monday in January, May, and September. The Criminal Court for Wilson County would be held on the fourth Monday of February, June, and October by the Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit.
15. Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, constituted a major realignment of the lower court system of Tennessee. The Act created fourteen regular, and one special judicial circuits. The counties of Wilson, Rutherford, Cannon, Bedford, and Marshall were assigned to the 8th Judicial Circuit with Wilson County's Court meeting on the second Monday in January, May, and September.
16. Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, fashioned fourteen Judicial Circuits in the State as a part of a major reform of the judiciary. The 8th Judicial Circuit contained the counties of Wilson, Rutherford, Bedford, Marshall, Cannon, and Williamson. The Circuit Court terms in Wilson County would continue to commence on the second Monday in January, May, and September.
17. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 45, amended Public Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, so as to detach Wilson County from the 8th Judicial Circuit and attach it to the 5th Judicial Circuit, and Private Acts of 1907, Chapter 85, was amended to require the Judge of the Criminal Court of the 5th Judicial Circuit to hold the Circuit Court for Wilson County on the third Monday in April, August, and December. The Judge of the Circuit Court in Wilson County would continue to have both civil and criminal jurisdiction.
18. Public Acts of 1967, Chapter 10, created the Twenty-fifth Judicial Circuit consisting of Jackson, Smith, Macon, Trousdale, and Wilson Counties, specifying terms. T.C.A. 16-2-506 made these counties the Fifteenth Judicial District. T.C.A. 16-2-510 abolished terms. Public Acts of 1978, Chapter 798, divided up the Fifth and Twenty-fifth Judicial Circuits for criminal jurisdiction purposes.

Clerk

The following acts have no current effect, but once applied to the Wilson County circuit court clerk. They were repealed, superseded, or never received local approval. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Public Acts of 1897, Chapter 124, included the Circuit Court Clerk among those county officials whose salary was determined by this Act according to the County's population. The compensation paid under this Act was in lieu of all fees and emoluments collected in the office which would become the property of the county.
2. Private Acts of 1903, Chapter 255, was a salary act which set the annual salaries of Circuit Court Clerks according to the population class of the county in which they served. The fees collected were to be reported to the Judge, or Chairman, of the county court in a sworn, itemized statement. If the fees were less than the salary the county would pay the difference to the clerk and if they exceeded the salary, the clerk could retain the excess.

3. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 675, amended Private Acts of 1903, Chapter 255, to provide that in counties between 25,000 and 30,000 in population which had a Law Court in addition to the Circuit Court and where a separate office must be kept for the Law Court by the Circuit Court Clerk, the Circuit Court Clerk would be paid an annual salary of \$1,500. Wilson County was within that population range.
4. Private Acts of 1927, Chapter 722, provided that the Circuit Court Clerk in Wilson County would be paid an annual salary of \$1,800, payable monthly out of the county funds, provided the Clerk filed annually on July 1 of each year a sworn, itemized statement showing the total amount of fees collected in the office. If the fees were less than the salary, the Clerk would be paid the difference, if more, the Clerk could retain the excess. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1935, Chapter 374.

Criminal Court

The following acts once pertained to the Wilson County criminal court, but are no longer current law. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 171, created a separate Criminal Court in Clarksville for Montgomery County, in Murfreesboro for Rutherford County, and in Lebanon for Wilson County. These Courts were to be held by the Criminal Court Judge of Davidson County under the same rules prevailing in the Davidson County Criminal Court. All criminal cases pending in the above counties were to be transferred to the new Courts. The Circuit Judges in those counties would continue to empanel the Grand Jury for the finding of bills of indictment. The Court would have three terms each year which would be scheduled by the Judge and entered upon the Minute Book. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1849-50, Chapter 202.
2. Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 35, established a separate Criminal Court for Wilson County with regular sessions scheduled on the fourth Monday in February, June, and October to be presided over by the Judge of the Seventh Judicial Circuit to which Wilson County was assigned at that time. The Circuit Court Clerk would serve as Clerk of the Criminal Court.
3. Public Acts of 1873, Chapter 4, repealed so much of Public Acts of 1868-69, Chapter 35, which set up a Criminal Court in Wilson County, and returned the criminal jurisdiction to the Circuit Court where it rested before.
4. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 45, in moving the Circuit Court of Wilson County from the Eighth Judicial Circuit to the Fifth Judicial Circuit made it the duty of the Judge of the Criminal Court of the Fifth Judicial Circuit to hold the Circuit Court for Wilson County which would have both civil and criminal jurisdiction.
5. Private Acts of 1937, Chapter 521, amended Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 45, by requiring the Criminal Judge of the Fifth Judicial Circuit to hold the Criminal Court of Wilson County at Lebanon on the third Monday in April, August, and December. This Court would be separate and apart from the Circuit Court which had civil jurisdiction.
6. Public Acts of 1978, Chapter 798, partially uncodified, created a criminal court for Wilson County. Section 16-2-506 now establishes the criminal court of Wilson County as part of the Fifteenth Judicial District.

Assistants and Criminal Investigators

The following acts once affecting Wilson County are no longer in effect but are listed here for historical purposes. Also referenced below is an act which repeals prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1813, Chapter 138, directed the Solicitor General of the Fourth Judicial Circuit to order out subpoenas for witnesses to attend at the Circuit Court of Wilson County to give evidence in the case of Willie Blount, Governor v. Cumberland Turnpike Company and further directed the Circuit Court Clerk to issue the subpoenas.
2. Acts of 1817, Chapter 65, established ten Solicitorial Districts in Tennessee. The Sixth Solicitorial District included the counties of Smith, Wilson, and Rutherford. One Attorney General would be appointed by the General Assembly for each District to prosecute on behalf of the State. They would attend both the County and Circuit Courts of their District.
3. Public Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 28, made each Solicitorial District in Tennessee coincide with each Judicial Circuit. An Attorney General for each circuit would be elected by a joint vote of the General Assembly.
4. Public Acts of 1913, Chapter 27, created the office of Assistant Attorney General for the Judicial Circuit to which Wilson County was then assigned who would serve at the pleasure and direction

of the Attorney-General of the Circuit. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 156.

General Sessions Court

The following acts once affected the general sessions court of Wilson County, but are no longer in effect and are included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 128, would have amended Private Acts of 1945, Chapter 34, but was rejected by the Wilson County Quarterly Court and never became effective law. This Act amended Section 8 to set the salary of the Judge of the General Sessions Court at \$5,100 annually, payable in equal monthly installments out of the ordinary funds of the County. This amount was not to be decreased during the term of office.
2. Private Acts of 1981, Chapter 162, would have made substantial modifications in the General Sessions Court for Wilson County but this Act never took effect as it was not approved by the local authorities. The Court would have been vested with all the jurisdiction and authority conferred by the General Assembly upon General Sessions Courts in civil and criminal cases, and it would also serve as the Juvenile and Probate Court for Wilson County. The compensation of the Judge was raised to \$42,500 per annum and the county legislative body was empowered to set the allowances for secretarial and office expenses. The County Clerk would serve as Clerk for said Court in matters of juvenile and probate proceedings. The Judge was empowered to appoint one or more Referees, with the consent of the county legislative body, and their compensation would be set by the county legislative body.

Juvenile Court

The following act once affecting juvenile courts in Wilson County IS included herein for reference purposes.

1. Private Acts of 1981, Chapter 162, would have granted juvenile jurisdiction to the Court of General Sessions of Wilson County. This Act was not approved locally and never took effect.

Source URL: <https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/private-acts/chapter-v-court-system-20>