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# Chapter V - Court System

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

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# Chapter V - Court System

## General Sessions Court

### Private Acts of 1957 Chapter 214

**SECTION 1.** That there is hereby created and established in and for Dickson County, Tennessee, a Court which shall be designated, "Court of General Sessions of Dickson County, Tennessee," which said Court shall possess the powers and jurisdiction as hereinafter provided. Dickson County shall provide a courtroom at Charlotte of said County, dockets, furnishings and necessary supplies for the equipment and maintenance of said Court, and pay for same out of the general county funds of said County. Said courtroom may be the Circuit Court room when not in use by the Circuit or Chancery Courts, or other appropriate room in same County-owned building. The regular place for holding said Court shall be at the Courtroom provided for said Court at Charlotte, but said Court may be held, in the discretion of the Judge thereof, at any other place or places in Dickson County, Tennessee, at such times and places as the Judge may designate. Provided, however, that if the Judge elects to hold Court at any place other than the Courtroom at Charlotte, Tennessee, then he may rent such appropriate building or office or room for said purpose. The Quarterly County Court shall determine and appropriate the amount of rent for Court Room space outside the Court House. That the rent above mentioned shall be paid out of the General Fund of the County.

As amended by:

Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 257

**SECTION 2.** That said Court of General Sessions is hereby vested with all the jurisdiction and shall exercise the authority conferred by the General Assembly of Tennessee upon Justices of the Peace for Dickson County are hereby divested of all such jurisdiction and authority, except as herein stated, and, 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 charges with an offense, and may issue original 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, and the fees allowed by law for such services by Justice of the Peace, such warrants and process to be returnable to and triable by said Court of General Sessions, and the fees allowed by law for such services by Justices of the Peace shall inure to, and be paid by parties liable therefor as a part of the costs in the case and paid to said Justices upon final settlement of said cases. 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.

**SECTION 3.** That in criminal cases instituted by warrant before Justices of the Peace, the said Justice in cases where the offense charged is that of a "small offense" may accept a cash appearance bond from the defendant conditioned for his appearance before the Judge of the Court of General Sessions; the amount of said cash bond for such "small offense" charged shall be fixed by the Justice at no less than Ten Dollars nor more than Fifty Dollars; and this bond and cash together with the warrant shall be filed with the Judge of said Court, and in the event the said defendant, so bonded, fails to appear before the said Judge as bound to do under said bond, then said Judge is hereby authorized to declare and treat said cash bond as forfeited and the said Judge shall account for said money, so forfeited, in the same manner he would have done, had the defendant been fined for the small offense charged, provided, a defendant so charged with public drunkenness shall not be released while drunk even if he does, or is willing to, execute such cash appearance bond.

**SECTION 4.** That before any civil case shall be tried or judgment rendered in said Court the plaintiff shall secure the costs by executing a costs bond, with good security, in the sum of Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), or by making a cash costs deposit of not less than Five Dollars (\$5.00) or more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00), or shall take the oath prescribed for poor persons, and on motion or in the sound discretion of the Judge, the amount of said bond or deposit may be increased.

**SECTION 5.** That the rules and pleading and practice, forms of writs and process and stay of and appeals from judgments in civil cases of said Court shall be in substance the same as of Justices of the Peace; provided, however, that the Court of General Sessions for Dickson County, Tennessee, is hereby vested with jurisdiction to try and determine and render final judgment in all misdemeanor cases brought before said Court by warrant or information wherein the person charged with such misdemeanor offense enters a plea of guilty, or requests a trial upon the merits, and expressly waives an indictment, presentment of a Grand Jury investigation, and a jury trial. In such cases the trial shall proceed before the Judge and without a jury, but such final judgment of such Court may be appealed to the Circuit Court of Dickson County where such appeal shall be treated as a "bound-over" case and go before the Grand Jury for

investigation in the usual and ordinary manner.

That it shall be the mandatory duty of the Judge of the Court of General Sessions 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 indictment or presentment of a Grand Jury, the right to waive such statement, and the right to a trial by a jury. Upon 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 such case as is provided hereinabove. Said waiver as hereinabove provided shall be written on or attached to the warrant and shall be substantially in words and figures as follows:

The defendant, \_\_\_\_\_ pleads \_\_\_\_\_ guilty to the offense of \_\_\_\_\_ and waives his right to be tried only upon or by indictment or presentment of a Grand Jury, and likewise waives trial by a Jury of his peers.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Defendant

**SECTION 6.** 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, State Highway Patrolmen and other officers for the execution of writs and process of said Court, and the attendance and mileage of Witnesses shall e the same in said Court as those provided by law for the Courts of Justices of the Peace.

The fees and compensation due for services rendered by said Court of General Sessions shall be paid to the Clerk of Judge acting as Clerk 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, Game Wardens, State Highway Patrolmen and other officers, for services to and in said Court shall be handled, accounted for and disbursed as required by law.

**SECTION 7.** That separate dockets 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, State Highway Patrolmen, and other officers for their services, fees of witnesses for attendance, et cetera, and credits for payment upon judgments and upon 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 8.** Be it further enacted that there shall be one Judge for said General Sessions Court of Dickson County, with the same qualifications and term of office as provided by the Constitution of the State of Tennessee for inferior Courts; which Judge of said Court as a condition precedent to his election, qualification and acting as such need not, as a matter of necessity or requirement that he be a licensed Attorney.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 257

**SECTION 9.** The salary of the Judge of said Court shall be set and fixed by the Quarterly County Court of said County as its regular Quarterly Session next preceding the beginning of the term for which the said Judge shall be elected or appointed for a new term, at some amount not less than the amount of compensation allowed the County Court Clerk of said County. It shall be paid out of the general funds of the County, and shall not be increased or diminished during the time for which said Judge is appointed or elected. The Judge of said Court may, if otherwise qualified so to do, practice law in all the Courts except in this Court and in and other Court in any case originating or growing out of this Court of General Sessions, or engage in other business activities insofar as it does not interfere with giving due attendance to the duties of the office of Judge of said Court.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 269

Private Acts of 1969, Chapter 89

Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 257

**SECTION 10.** That the Governor of the State of Tennessee shall appoint a qualified resident of Dickson County to be the first Judge of said Court of General Sessions for Dickson County, Tennessee. This appointment shall be made by the Governor in ample time for said Judge to assume his duties by July 1, 1957. The first Judge, so appointed, shall serve until September, 1958, and until his successor has been elected and qualified.

His successor shall be elected by the qualified voters of said County at the General Election at which other County Officials are elected on the First Thursday in August, 1966, and he shall hold said office from the First day of September, 1966, for a full term of Eight (8) years, or until his successor is elected and

qualified. Successive judges of the Court shall be elected for a term of Eight (8) years and until his successor is elected and qualified. And in the case of vacancy occurring in said judgeship by death, resignation or otherwise, the Governor shall appoint a successor who shall serve until the next regular county election at which time a judge shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term resulting from such vacancy, or until his successor is elected and qualified.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 269

**SECTION 11.** That if the Judge of said Court fails to attend, cannot preside in a pending cause, or for any reason hold Court, or act as Judge, a majority of the practicing attorneys of said County preside shall 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 12.** That the Judge of said Court is hereby vested with and shall have interchangeable and current jurisdiction with the Chancery and Circuit Courts to grant fiats for writs of injunction, attachments and in other such actions in which fiats are necessary.

**SECTION 13.** The Judge of the General Sessions Court of Dickson County, shall name and appoint a Clerk of said Court, who shall serve during the will and pleasure of said Judge and be under the direction and supervision of said Judge, and the duties of such Clerk shall be to perform all the necessary, proper and lawful clerical duties of said court, including but not limited to, issuance of process, civil and criminal warrants, search warrants, attachments, and other processes of said court, keep the dockets and make entries thereon and therein, of all judgments and bills of cost, collect all costs, fines, judgments that are paid into said court and pay out and disburse same according to law, and to report and pay over to the proper authorities all the monies received by virtue of the office of the Clerk of the said court.

The compensation of such Clerk shall be fixed by the Quarterly County Court of said County annually, at the first session of each fiscal year.

(Note: This paragraph was by Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 257, to be "stricken from Section 3." Apparently it was meant to be included in Section 13. It is included here in this compilation, but the law itself instructs an impossibility since neither this paragraph nor the subject matter is in Section 3.)

The said Clerk, before entering upon the duties of such office shall give a surety or indemnity company bond in the penal sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) conditioned that he shall account for and pay over to the proper person the funds or all monies coming into his hands as such Clerk and by virtue of the said position.

As amended by: Private Acts of 1965, Chapter 269

**SECTION 14.** That the Sheriff of said County, or and 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. Provided, however, that no Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or Constable shall be entitled to any fees for opening and closing said Court, or for waiting upon said Court as Court Officer. But the Judge of said Court may select or appoint any of such officers that may be in attendance to wait upon said Court without any further compensation for such services.

**SECTION 15.** That the Judge of said Court shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to expedite the trial and disposition of cases, and he shall have the same authority to preserve order in said Court and to punish for contempt of Court as is now given by law to Circuit Judges.

**SECTION 16.** 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 deposited of or pending when this Act becomes effective.

**SECTION 17.** That all the official dockets, records and papers in cases which are undisposed of or pending in the offices of Justice 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 18.** That said Court of General Sessions for Dickson County, Tennessee, shall have authority to hear and determine all undisposed of cases arising in the Court 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 19.** That the General Assembly expressly declares that each section, subsection, paragraph and provisions of the 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 declared that it would have enacted this Act with such

unconstitutional or invalid portions elided therefrom.

**SECTION 20.** That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1957, and not until then, except that after the passage of this Act prior to July 1, 1957, said County shall make provision for a Court Room and otherwise as provided in Section 1 hereof, but such Judge (and acting Clerk) of said Court of General Sessions shall not take the oath of office or be entitled to any salary under this Act until July 1, 1957, the public welfare requiring it.

**SECTION 21.** That this Act shall have no effect unless the same shall be approved by a majority of the voters voting in an election to be held for such purpose. Within 15 days after the approval of this Act by the Governor, it shall be the duty of the county board of election commissioners of the county (to which this Act applied) to call an election (for the county) to be held not less than 20 nor more than 40 days from the date of such call for the purpose of accepting or rejecting the provisions of this Act. The ballots used in such election shall have printed thereon the title of this Act and voters shall vote for or against its adoption. The votes cast at such election shall be canvassed by the county board of election commissioners upon the first Monday occurring 5 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 qualification of voters shall be that provided by law for participation in general elections shall apply to an election held hereunder.

Passed: March 13, 1957.

## Probate and Juvenile Court

### Private Acts of 1982 Chapter 267

**SECTION 1.** That is hereby created a Juvenile Court in Dickson County, Tennessee to be known as the "Probate and Juvenile Court of Dickson County, Tennessee".

As amended by: Private Acts of 2018, Chapter 43.

**SECTION 2.** Such court shall have jurisdiction over all matters over which jurisdiction is now or shall hereafter be vested in Juvenile Courts by the general laws of the State of Tennessee, including, but not limited to, the jurisdiction as now vested in the County Court of Dickson County, Tennessee, by the general laws of the state and those judicial powers vested in the County Judge of Dickson County, Tennessee, by Public or Private Acts, and by Title 34, Chapters 1 and 2, only as those provisions relate to juveniles, and Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 37, Chapters 1 through 17, inclusive; all to the extent that under such laws the jurisdiction thereunder was vested heretofore in any Juvenile Court or any County Court or any court exercising the jurisdiction thereof formerly known as a Quorum County Court or Monthly County Court.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2018, Chapter 43.

**SECTION 3.** The Office of County Judge of Dickson County, Tennessee as heretofore created by Public or Private Acts is hereby divested of any and all judicial powers as therein created and to the extent thereof such former Act is repealed.

**SECTION 4.** The General Sessions Court Clerk of Dickson County, Tennessee, shall act as the Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Dickson County, Tennessee, as herein established and when acting as clerk or such court, shall be designated as the "Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Dickson County, Tennessee." Such clerk shall acquire and maintain a seal for the court containing the designation "Clerk of the Juvenile Court of Dickson County, Tennessee" and such minute books and other necessary records for such court as shall be necessary and required. The clerk shall charge all fees and be entitled to receive such fees and charges as shall be fixed by the general laws of the State of Tennessee from time to time for any county or Juvenile Court in the State of Tennessee, and which such fees when collected shall be accounted for and disbursed as all fees and charges are similarly done by such courts. The General Sessions Court Clerk shall be empowered to designate one or more persons employed by him as deputies from time to time to be a deputy clerk for the court herein created.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2018, Chapter 43.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2020, Chapter 49.

**SECTION 5.** The judge of the court herein created shall have all jurisdiction to punish for contempt and to issue extraordinary writs and processes as now or shall hereafter be exercised by any Judge Chancellor or any Circuit or Chancery Court of the State of Tennessee.

**SECTION 6.** Appeals from the court herein created, or the demand for a jury trial upon any issue therein

provided shall be the Circuit Court of Dickson County, Tennessee or such other court as may by the general laws of the state be from time to time provided, or to such Appellate Court of the State of Tennessee as may be from time to time provided by law, according to the general laws of the State of Tennessee.

As amended by: Private Acts of 2018, Chapter 43.

**SECTION 7.** If the judge of the court herein created shall fail to attend or cannot preside in any pending case, or for any other reason shall not be able to hold court, he may designate in writing some person otherwise qualified to hold such court in his place and stead or in default thereof a majority of the attorneys then present may elect one if their number who has the qualifications of such judge, and when such person shall have been so appointed or elected, he shall take the same oath and have the same authority as the regular judge of such court to hold court and perform all of the duties thereof for such occasion.

**SECTION 8.** In case of a vacancy for any cause in the office of the judge of the court herein created, the same shall be filled by an election and appointment of the County Commission of Dickson County, Tennessee of some person otherwise qualified to fill such vacancy and which such person when so elected and appointed by the County Commission shall serve until the first day of September following the next biennial August election occurring more than thirty (30) days after such vacancy occurs and until such person's successor is duly elected and qualified.

**SECTION 9.** The court herein created shall at all times be treated and considered as a court of record. That such court shall be in continuous session 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 periods as shall be required to provide for the orderly dispatch and disposition of all business properly coming before it.

**SECTION 10.** There shall be one judge for the court herein created who shall be a duly licensed lawyer 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 of 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 that shall be required for other judges of the State of Tennessee.

**SECTION 11.** The compensation of the judge of the court herein created shall be set, prior to the beginning of each term, by the County Commission, and such compensation shall be subject to annual cost of living increases equal to the percentage increase established annually by the General Assembly for other county officials. Such salary or compensation shall be payable in equal monthly installments out of the General Fund of Dickson County, Tennessee. The salary or compensation of such judge shall not be otherwise increased or decreased during the term of office.

**SECTION 12.** The County Commission of Dickson County, Tennessee shall annually appropriate from the General Fund of Dickson County such funds as are necessary and appropriate for the orderly operation and administration of the court herein created.

**SECTION 13.** This Act shall not be construed to prohibit the judge of the court herein created from the private practice of law except that he shall be prohibited from practicing law in any matter over which the court herein created may exercise jurisdiction.

**SECTION 14.** The judge of the court herein created shall from time to time be authorized and empowered to adopt rules of practice and procedure for the court not otherwise inconsistent with the substantive and procedural laws of the State of Tennessee relative to matters within the jurisdiction of such judge, or that 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 court herein created.

**SECTION 15.** Every provisions of this Act is declared to be severable and should any portion of the same be held unconstitutional 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 elided, and that the General Assembly declare that it would have thus enacted this Act with such unconstitutional or invalid portions elided therefrom.

**SECTION 16.** This Act shall not take effect unless it shall have been approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the County Commission of Dickson County, Tennessee and such approval being certified and proclaimed by the presiding officer thereof to the Secretary of State.

**SECTION 17.** This Act shall take effect, provided it shall have been approved as hereinbefore provided, upon the sooner occurrence of the following times, the public welfare requiring it:

(a) September 1, 1982, provided that for the purpose of filling the office of judge herein created by election of the people it shall be effective for purposes of candidates qualifying for election thereto as of

the first day for qualifying as provided by the general election laws of the State of Tennessee; or

(b) Upon the death or resignation of the incumbent or vacancy otherwise occurring in the office of County Judge of Dickson County, Tennessee as now exists pursuant to Chapter 162 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee of 1887.

Passed: March 11, 1982.

## Court System - Historical Notes

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

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

1. Acts of 1803, Chapter 73, apportioned the number of jurors which the Counties in the Mero District were required to send to the Superior Court of the same. Jackson County must send two jurors; Smith County, four jurors; Sumner County, six jurors; Wilson County, three jurors; Rutherford County, two jurors; Williamson County, four jurors; Davidson County, seven jurors; Robertson County, four jurors; Montgomery County, four jurors; Dickson County, two jurors; and Stewart County, two jurors.
2. Acts of 1806, Chapter 24, designated the number of jurors each county in the Robertson District must send to the District Court at Clarksville. Robertson County was directed to furnish eleven jurors; Montgomery County, twelve jurors; Dickson County, nine jurors; and Stewart County, seven jurors.
3. Acts of 1817, Chapter 128, made it legal for the Justices of the Peace in the Counties of Hawkins, Smith, Franklin, Rutherford, Maury, Lincoln, Giles, Overton, Bedford, Wilson, Hickman, Sumner, Stewart, Humphreys, Williamson, Jackson, White, Montgomery, Warren, Robertson, and Dickson, on the first day of the first term in each year to levy a tax to produce funds with which an additional compensation would be made to jurors attending the Circuit and County Courts in those counties, but the additional compensation could not exceed fifty cents per day.
4. Private Acts of 1901, Chapter 471, amended Acts of 1899, Chapter 237, in Section 6, to provide that the jurors would be selected by the County Court to serve in the Circuit Court, as was now provided by Section 5793, Shannon's Code of Tennessee. (This act created special circuit and chancery courts in Dickson County to sit at Dickson.)
5. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 254, provided that the compensation of jurors serving in Dickson County (identified by the use of the 1910 Federal Census figures) would hereafter be \$2.50 per day, all conflicts being repealed.
6. Private Acts of 1949, Chapter 231, provided for a three member Board of Jury Commissioners in Dickson County who would be appointed by the Circuit Court Judge, who must be resident freeholders of the County, not practicing attorneys, or State, county, or city officials, and who had no suits pending in Court, each of whom would serve six years and not be eligible for reappointment. All vacancies would be filled in the same manner. The Commissioners had to be sworn by the oath set out in the Act, meet and select a Chair from their own number. The Circuit Court Clerk would serve as a Clerk for the Board and he, too, must subscribe to the oath set out in this statute. It was the duty of the Board to select from the tax rolls, or other sources of public information, no less than 500, nor more than 1000 names, distributing them as equally as possible around the County, which would constitute the jury list for the next two years.

### **Chancery Court**

The following acts form an outline of the development of equity jurisdiction in Dickson 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. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1822, Chapter 13, required the Justices of the Supreme Court of the State to hold a court of Equity at the present places of meeting of the Supreme Court at least once each year. The Chancery Court would be held at Rogersville on the first Monday in 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, all terms to be two weeks unless the court dockets were finished earlier.
2. Acts of 1824, Chapter 14, directed the Supreme Court to meet at Knoxville, Sparta and Nashville,



and for the Judges of the Court to arrange among themselves to hold the Chancery court at least twice each year at Greenville, Rogersville, Kingston, Carthage, McMinnville, Franklin, Columbia, Charlotte, and Jackson. The Court at Charlotte would hear cases from the Counties of Robertson, Montgomery, Dickson, Stewart, Humphreys, and Hickman on the third Monday in June and December.

3. Acts of 1827, Chapter 79, divided Tennessee into two Chancery Divisions, the Eastern, which contained the Courts meeting at Rogersville, Greenville, Kingston, Carthage and McMinnville, and the Western, which included those at Franklin, Columbia, Charlotte, Jackson and Paris.
4. Acts of 1832, Chapter 21, Section 5, changed the terms of court for the Chancery Court at Carthage and at Charlotte where the Equity Court would hereafter meet on the third Monday in May and November.
5. Acts of 1833, Chapter 40, granted the citizens of Wayne County and Perry County the liberty of filing their Bills in Chancery at the Chancery Court in Charlotte in Dickson County but nothing herein would prevent these citizens from filing their bills in Pulaski, or at Jackson, as they had heretofore been permitted to do.
6. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 4, separated Tennessee into three Chancery Divisions each of which would be presided over by a Chancellor rather than the Justices of the Supreme Court. The Court would meet twice each year as prescribed in this Act enacted pursuant to the new 1835 State Constitution. Each major division was further broken down into Districts. Dickson County was in the 12th District of the Middle Division which also included Humphreys County and Hickman County. The Court would convene at Charlotte on the fourth Monday of March and September.
7. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 20, made it the duty of the Chancellor of the Western Division to hold the Chancery Courts at Savannah and Charlotte and to appoint the Clerks and Masters at these places when necessary.
8. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 14, Section 3, established a Chancery Court at Charlotte for the counties of Dickson, Humphreys, Hickman, Stewart, Montgomery, and Cumberland where court terms were to start on the fourth Monday in March and September. The citizens of Robertson County had the option of filing their suits in this Court.
9. Acts of 1839-40, Chapter 66, Section 6, provided that the cases now pending in Court at Charlotte which originated in the Counties of Montgomery, Robertson, or Stewart, could, at the request of the parties, be transferred to the Court now meeting at Clarksville. The Clerk and Master at Charlotte was instructed to transfer the complete manuscript in the cause within 40 days after the request was made.
10. Acts of 1841-42, Chapter 27, Section 2, provided that the District Chancery Court would be held at Clarksville on the third Monday in March and September and at Charlotte on the fourth Monday in March and September.
11. Acts of 1843-44, Chapter 155, Section 3, repealed all prior acts which changed the term of the Chancery Court located at Clarksville and at Charlotte and restored the terms which were in effect prior to the passage of the said acts.
12. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 21, Section 9, repealed Section 2 of Acts of 1841-42, Chapter 27, Item 10, above. Hereafter, the Chancery Court at Clarksville would convene on the fourth Monday in March and September and the Court at Charlotte would begin on the third Monday of the same months.
13. Acts of 1845-46, Chapter 168, directed that hereafter the Chancellor of the Middle Division would hold the Chancery Court at Charlotte and at Clarksville and the Chancellor of the Fourth Division would preside over the Courts at Springfield and Gallatin. The terms of Court would begin at Charlotte on the third Monday in April and October.
14. Acts of 1851-52, Chapter 178, scheduled Court terms for all the Chancery Courts in the Middle Division which was composed of the Counties of Wayne, Lawrence, Giles, Marshall, Hickman, Humphreys, Dickson, Robertson, Maury, Williamson, Stewart, Montgomery, and Davidson. The Chancery Courts in Dickson County would meet on the second Monday in March and September.
15. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 54, established the Fifth and the Sixth Chancery Divisions in the State. Section 2 formed the 6th Chancery Division comprised of the counties of Carroll, Benton, Humphreys, Dickson, Hickman, Perry, Decatur, Henderson, McNairy, Hardin, Wayne and Lawrence.
16. Acts of 1853-54, Chapter 55, modified some of the Rules of Practice in the Chancery Courts and in Section 4 rearranged the opening dates of the Chancery Court terms for most of the counties in

- the Middle Division. The Court in Dickson County would start its regular terms on the Thursday after the first Monday in April and October.
17. Acts of 1855-56, Chapter 112, Section 4, rescheduled the Chancery Court terms in the Sixth Chancery Division which included the counties of Carroll, Henderson, McNairy, Hardin, Wayne, Lawrence, Hickman, Humphreys, Benton, Decatur, Perry and Dickson where the court terms would begin on the third Monday in March and September at Charlotte.
  18. Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 88, divided Tennessee into the Eastern, Middle, Western, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Chancery Divisions. The Sixth Division contained the counties of Carroll, Henderson, McNairy, Hardin, Wayne, Lawrence, Hickman, Dickson, Humphreys, Benton, Decatur, and Perry. Dickson Court terms would continue to start on the third Monday in March and September at Charlotte.
  19. Acts of 1866-67, Chapter 4, Section 4, was a post Civil War Act which assigned the counties of Hickman, Dickson, Humphreys, Henderson, McNairy, Hardin, Wayne, Lawrence, Decatur, and Perry to the Fifth Chancery Division. Court terms began in Dickson County on the third Monday of March and September.
  20. Acts of 1870, Chapter 32, reorganized the State into twelve Chancery Divisions assigning the counties of Benton, Hickman, Henderson, McNairy, Lawrence, Dickson, Humphreys, Decatur, Lewis, Perry, Hardin and Wayne to the 9th Division.
  21. Acts of 1870, Chapter 47, fixed the opening dates for the terms of the Chancery Court in every County of Tennessee. In Dickson County the terms would commence on the third Monday in March and September of each year.
  22. Acts of 1870-71, Chapter 10, rearranged the terms of court in the counties of the 9th Chancery Division. Dickson County would convene the regular terms of court on the first Monday in January and July, all process and bonds being required to conform to those dates.
  23. Acts of 1873, Chapter 5, rescheduled the Chancery Court terms in the 9th Chancery Division switching Dickson County's Court to the first Monday in June and December.
  24. Acts of 1879, Chapter 88, reset the terms of the Chancery Courts in the 9th Chancery Division listing the counties of Lewis, Hickman, Perry, Decatur, Henderson, McNairy, Hardin, Wayne, Humphreys, Benton, Lawrence and Dickson where the terms of court would still open on the first Monday in June and December at Charlotte.
  25. Acts of 1881, Chapter 162, changed the opening dates for some of the counties in the 9th Chancery Division which was made up of the same counties and which made no changes in the terms of court in Dickson County.
  26. Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, was a massive revision of the entire lower Court system of Tennessee in which eleven Chancery Divisions were created. The Seventh Chancery Division was made up of the counties of Maury, Giles, Lawrence, Lewis, Wayne, Hickman, Hardin, Perry, Decatur, Dickson and Benton. Dickson County's Chancery Court was still slated to open on the first Monday in June and December.
  27. Acts of 1887, Chapter 5, reset the terms of the Chancery Courts in the Seventh Chancery Division. In Dickson County the Chancery Court would begin its regular terms at Charlotte on the first Monday in March and the second Monday in September.
  28. Acts of 1895, Chapter 41, amended the 1887 Act, Chapter 5, above, so that the time for holding the Chancery Court in Dickson County was changed from the second Monday in September to the third Monday in August, all bonds and process being made to conform.
  29. Acts of 1899, Chapter 237, Section 10, created a Chancery Court at Dickson in Dickson County with original jurisdiction over causes arising in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Civil Districts of the County. The Court was given all the powers and authority of other Chancery Courts and the Clerk and Master of the Court at Charlotte would also be the Clerk of this Court. The same fees and court costs would be in effect at Dickson as at other places and the Chancellor of Dickson County would preside over the Court at no added compensation on the second Monday in March and August each year at the Courthouse in Dickson. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 115. (See Walker v. State, 188 Tenn. 376, 99 S.W. 366 (1907).)
  30. Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, formed ten Chancery Divisions in the State of Tennessee allocating the counties of Sumner, Robertson, Cheatham, Montgomery, Stewart, Houston, Dickson, Humphreys, Hickman, and Wilson to the 6th Chancery Division. Dickson County would open the terms of the Chancery Court at Charlotte on the first Monday in June and December. This Act reformed the

entire subordinate judicial system of the State.

31. Acts of 1901, Chapter 466, stated that after September 1, 1902, the Chancery Court of Dickson County would convene for regular term on the second Monday in January and July of each year.
32. Acts of 1903, Chapter 277, altered the Chancery Court terms for the counties of Cheatham, Hickman, Houston and Dickson whose court would come together in Charlotte on the first Monday in June and at Dickson on the Thursday after the first Monday in June.
33. Private Acts of 1905, Chapter 286, set up new court terms for all the Courts in the 6th Chancery Division naming the counties of Hickman, Robertson, Montgomery, Cheatham, Wilson, Sumner, Humphreys, Stewart, Houston and Dickson. The Court at Charlotte in Dickson County would convene on the fourth Monday in April and October and the Court at Dickson on the Thursday following that Monday.
34. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 455, rescheduled the terms of the Chancery Courts in the 6th Chancery Division which included the counties of Cheatham, Dickson, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart, Sumner, and Wilson. Court terms would remain as they were in Dickson County at both Charlotte and Dickson.
35. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 115, repealed Acts of 1899, Chapter 237, Item 29, above, which created special Chancery and Circuit Courts in Dickson County which courts were hereby abolished, all the cases and jurisdiction being returned to the Circuit and Chancery Court of Dickson County. All records, transcripts, and process would be made to conform herein to the terms of this Act and be returned to the Court at Charlotte.

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

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

1. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 20, Section 8, made it the responsibility of the Chancellor of the Western Division to hold the Chancery Court at Savannah, and at Charlotte, and he would also appoint the Clerks and Masters to serve at those places.
2. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 117, stated that nothing contained in any recent act regarding the Chancery Courts in the Middle Division of Tennessee would be construed to affect the Clerks and Masters at Somerville, Huntingdon, Charlotte, and Brownsville. Each Clerk and Master would hold the office until his current term was completed subject to all the existing rules and regulations.
3. Acts of 1899, Chapter 281, allowed the Clerk and Master and the circuit court clerk of Dickson County the sum of \$100 annually for their expenses for the proper and economical discharge of the duties of the office at Dickson including the employment of Deputies, if the need arose. This amount was appropriated and authorized to be paid out of the general county fund.
4. Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 165, stated that for the proper and economical discharge of the duties in and about the Chancery Court meeting at Dickson in Dickson County, the Clerk and Master would be reimbursed for all the expenses incurred by him on the account of the said Court, and he would be paid \$250.00 each year, in addition to the fees of the office, which would be paid out of the general funds of the County. Acts of 1899, Chapter 281, was expressly and entirely repealed.
5. Private Acts of 1919, Chapter 363, amended Chapter 165, Private Acts of 1913, Item 4, above, by striking the sum of \$250 and inserting \$500 in its place, thus increasing the allowance of the Clerk and Master to that amount for keeping the office at Dickson.
6. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 371, fixed the salary of the Clerk and Master of Dickson County which he would receive in addition to the fees of the office as now provided by law, at the sum of \$500 per annum for the services of a Deputy Clerk and Master, which sum would be paid quarterly out of the regular county treasurer.

### **Circuit Court**

The following acts were once applicable to the circuit court of Dickson 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 1806, Chapter 19, provided that hereafter the counties of Robertson, Dickson, Montgomery, and Stewart would make up the District of Robertson in the State and two Superior Court would be held in Clarksville for the District on the first Monday in June and December, holding for twelve judicial days.
2. Acts of 1809, Chapter 49, divided Tennessee into five Judicial Circuits of which the Fifth Judicial

Circuit contained the counties of Montgomery, Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys, Stewart, and Robertson. There would be two terms of court each year starting in Dickson County on the first Monday in March and September. Provisions were made for a substitute judge if the regular judge were incapacitated.

3. Acts of 1817, Chapter 111, stated that within 40 days from the passage of this Act the Clerk of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Judicial Circuit, to which Dickson County belonged, would remove his office to the Courthouse in Charlotte in Dickson County. The Court would be opened and held at the courthouse in Charlotte on the days appointed by law. The Act which set up the Court in Clarksville was repealed.
4. Acts of 1817, Chapter 138, scheduled the terms of court for those counties in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Judicial Circuits. In Dickson County the terms of the Circuit Court would start on the fourth Monday in February and August.
5. Acts of 1819, Chapter 154, scheduled the terms of court for those counties in the Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Judicial Circuits. In Dickson County the terms for the Circuit Court would start on the fourth Monday in February and August.
6. Acts of 1820, Chapter 107, provided that the Court of Errors and Appeals for the Fifth Judicial Circuit would hereafter be held on the fourth Monday in June and December sitting for a term of two weeks unless the business of the court were cleared up sooner than that.
7. Acts of 1821, Chapter 42, provided that the appeals from the 8th Judicial Circuit, created by this Act and embracing the counties of Henry, Carroll, Henderson, Madison, Shelby, Wayne, Hardin and Perry would be heard by the Court of Errors and Appeals at Charlotte in Dickson County.
8. Acts of 1823, Chapter 76, declared there would be an extra session of the Circuit Court in Dickson County at the Courthouse in Charlotte on the third Monday in May and November each year, in addition to the terms now scheduled by law. The Judge would adjourn the Court to the third Monday in May and November, and the jurors would be selected and process made to conform accordingly. The extra sessions were not to extend beyond one week. This Act was repealed below.
9. Acts of 1823, Chapter 195, repealed the Act passed at this session of the General Assembly which allowed an extra term for the Circuit Court of Dickson County in full. (Acts of 1823, Chapter 76, above.)
10. Acts of 1825, Chapter 31, stated that all appeals arising in the Fifth, Eighth, and Ninth Judicial Circuits would be heard by the Court of Appeals sitting at Reynoldsburgh in Humphreys County except those coming out of Robertson, Montgomery, or Dickson Counties which had the option of filing them with the court which met at Nashville.
11. Acts of 1831, Chapter 53, stated that all appeals and writs of error arising in the counties of Robertson, Montgomery, and Dickson would hereafter be taken to the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals at Nashville and all causes in Chancery in the Court at Charlotte would also be appealed to the Court at Nashville if any of the parties thereto resided in the above counties.
12. Acts of 1833, Chapter 14, moved the Supreme Court of Errors and Appeals from Reynoldsburgh to Centerville in Hickman County and all appeals coming out of the Counties of Lawrence, Wayne, Hardin, Humphreys, Hickman and Perry would be filed and heard there while those arising in the counties of Maury, Giles and Dickson were also to go to Centerville or to Nashville at the option of the litigants.
13. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 5, was a completely new reorganization of the lower court system enacted pursuant to the 1835 Constitution. Eleven judicial circuits were formed of which the Seventh Circuit was composed of the counties of Dickson, Hickman, Humphreys, Stewart, Montgomery, and Robertson. Circuit Court terms in Dickson County would begin on the second Monday in February, June and October.
14. Acts of 1837-38, Chapter 231, Section 2, directed that hereafter the Circuit Court in Dickson County would be on the second Monday in February, next, and then on the third Monday in February, June and October.
15. Acts of 1841-42, Chapter 27, Chapter 24, rescheduled the terms of the Circuit Courts in the Seventh Judicial Circuit which not consisted of the counties of Robertson, Dickson, Stewart, Montgomery and Humphreys. The Circuit Court of Dickson County would continue to meet on the third Monday in February, June and October.
16. Acts of 1847-48, Chapter 49, rearranged the opening dates of the terms of the circuit courts in Montgomery County, Humphreys County, Stewart County, Robertson County, and Dickson County

- when the Court would begin its regular terms on the fourth Monday in February, June and October.
17. Acts of 1857-58, Chapter 98, was a realignment of the circuit court system in Tennessee into sixteen Judicial Circuits. The 10th Judicial Circuit contained the counties of Montgomery, Robertson, Cheatham, Dickson, and Stewart. The Court in Dickson County would continue to open its regular terms on the fourth Monday in February, June and October.
  18. Acts of 1870, Chapter 31, divided the State into fifteen regular, and one special, Judicial Circuits. The Tenth Judicial Circuit consisted of the Counties of Robertson, Montgomery, Stewart, Cheatham, Dickson, Humphreys, and Sumner.
  19. Acts of 1870, Chapter 46, established the opening dates for the terms of the Circuit Courts of every county in Tennessee according to their Judicial Circuit. In Dickson County the Circuit Court would convene on the third Monday of March, July and November each year.
  20. Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, formed fourteen regular, and one special, judicial circuits in this next reorganization of the lower court system of Tennessee. The Tenth Judicial Circuit contained the counties of Sumner, Robertson, Montgomery, (for civil cases only), Stewart, Houston, Dickson and Humphreys. Dickson County's Circuit Court terms would commence on the third Monday in March, July and November. This Act, plus several prior acts of a similar nature was part of the opinion of the Supreme Court in the case of Flynn v. State, 203 Tenn. 341, 313 S.W.2d 249 (1958), a good summary of early Tennessee jurisprudence.
  21. Acts of 1891 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, amended Acts of 1885 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, above in Item 20, so as to remove Hickman County and Dickson County from the 9th and 10th Judicial Circuits, and also to remove Cheatham County and Williamson County from the Seventh Judicial Circuit and then combines all of them to form the 19th Judicial Circuit. All terms of court would remain as they were then constituted and the Attorney General of the 9th Circuit would prosecute in the new circuit in every county but Dickson County where the Attorney-General of the 10th Circuit would continue his duties. This act was repealed by the one following.
  22. Acts of 1899, Chapter 154, abolished the 19th Judicial Circuit composed of the counties of Hickman, Dickson, Cheatham and Williamson and expressly repealed Acts of 1891 (Ex. Sess.), Chapter 20, above.
  23. Acts of 1899, Chapter 237, created a Circuit Court for Dickson County which would have original jurisdiction of all the suits arising in the First, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Twelfth, and Thirteenth Civil Districts. The Court would be held in the town of Dickson and possess all the power and authority of other Circuit Courts. The Circuit Judge of Dickson County would preside over regular terms of court beginning on the third in March, July and November. The Circuit Court Clerk would serve the new court as the Clerk.
  24. Acts of 1899, Chapter 409, Section 7, assigned Dickson County to the Tenth Judicial Circuit and scheduled the opening dates of the court terms to begin on the third Monday in March, July and November at Dickson, and on the fourth Monday in March, July and November at Charlotte.
  25. Acts of 1899, Chapter 427, was the next major revision of the lower judicial system in the State which came up with fourteen Judicial Circuits. The Ninth Judicial Circuit included the counties of Robertson, Montgomery, Stewart, Houston, Humphreys, Cheatham, Dickson and Sumner. The Court in Dickson County would start its terms on the third Monday in January, May and September.
  26. Acts of 1901, Chapter 210, rescheduled the opening dates of the terms of the circuit court of Dickson County at Charlotte from the fourth Monday to the second Monday in March, July and November of each year, specifying that person on bail would make their appearance at the court on Tuesday after the second Monday of their respective terms.
  27. Acts of 1901, Chapter 365, amended Acts of 1901, Chapter 210, above, in Section 2, by directing that Williamson County be removed from the Ninth Judicial Circuit into the Seventh Judicial Circuit. This Act was repealed by Acts of 1901, Chapter 382, Section 5, below.
  28. Acts of 1901, Chapter 382, repealed entirely that portion of Acts of 1901, Chapter 365, above, which moved Williamson County out of the Ninth Judicial Circuit and into the Seventh and in effect returned Williamson County to the Ninth Circuit.
  29. Acts of 1901, Chapter 397, detached Williamson County from the 9th Judicial Circuit and placed it in the 7th Circuit as before. The terms of court were to continue as they were now established under the law, and all the laws placing Williamson County in the 9th Judicial Circuit were repealed.
  30. Acts of 1901, Chapter 466, provided that the Circuit Court of Dickson County would meet

hereafter on the fourth Monday of April, August and December of each year.

31. Private Acts of 1903, Chapter 29, rescheduled the court terms of the circuit courts in the 9th Judicial Circuit which now included the counties of Sumner, Robertson, Cheatham, Montgomery, Houston, Stewart, and Dickson. In Dickson County the court at Charlotte would gather regularly on the fourth Monday in March, July and November, and the court at Dickson would meet on the first Monday in April, August and December.
32. Private Acts of 1909, Chapter 329, changed the opening dates for the Circuit Court terms in the 9th Judicial Circuit. The Circuit Court at Charlotte in Dickson County would open on the first Monday in April, August and December, and the court at Dickson would begin on the second Monday in the same months each year. All process and bonds were to conform to the above changes.
33. Public Acts of 1915, Chapter 57, reset the openings of the regular terms of the Circuit Courts in the 9th Judicial Circuit. The Circuit contained the counties of Sumner, Robertson, Montgomery, Stewart, Houston, Humphreys and Dickson. The Court located at Charlotte in Dickson County would convene on the Tuesday after the first Monday in April, and on the fourth Monday in July and November. At Dickson the court would meet on the second Monday in April and the first Monday in August and December.
34. Private Acts of 1931, Chapter 115, repealed Acts of 1899, Chapter 237, Item 23, above, which established special circuit and chancery courts in Dickson County at the city of Dickson. These special courts were abolished and all jurisdiction was returned to the courts meeting at Charlotte. All the records and transcripts in the custody of the court at Dickson would be returned to the court at Charlotte and all process could be adjusted.

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

The following acts have no current effect, but once applied to the Dickson County Circuit Court Clerk. They were repealed, superseded, or never received local approval. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Acts of 1899, Chapter 281, allowed the Circuit Court Clerk and the Clerk and Master of Dickson County the sum of \$100 each for payment of their expenses for the proper and economical discharge of the duties of their offices including the employment of deputies, when needed. This sum was authorized to be paid out of the general funds of the county. This Act was repealed by Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 165.
2. Acts of 1903, Chapter 255, was a salary act which fixed the annual salaries of Circuit Court Clerks only according to the population class of the County in which they served. The Clerk were required to file a sworn, itemized statement with the County Judge, or Chairman, showing all the fees collected in the office. If the fees were less than the salary, the county would supply the difference, but if the fees exceeded the salary, the Clerk could retain the surplus for his own.
3. Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 251, set the salary of the Circuit Court Clerk in Dickson County at \$900 a year, payable quarterly out of the County Treasury on the warrant of the County Judge which would be full compensation. All the fees collected in the office would be the property of the county and paid to the Trustee.
4. Private Acts of 1913, Chapter 165, expressly repealed Acts of 1899, Chapter 281, in its entirety.
5. Private Acts of 1921, Chapter 70, amended Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 251, Item 3, above, by raising the annual salary of the Circuit Court Clerk from \$900 to \$1200, all other terms and conditions to remain as they were.
6. Private Acts of 1939, Chapter 464, amended Private Acts of 1911, Chapter 251, so that the annual salary of the Circuit Court Clerk of Dickson County would hereafter be \$1,800 instead of \$1,200, all other conditions to remain as they were.

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

The following acts once affecting Dickson County are no longer in effect but are listed here for historical purposes.

1. Acts of 1807, Chapter 13, provided that one fit and proper person would be appointed in the manner authorized by the Constitution to attend the several superior Courts in all the Districts, including the Robertson District, who would prosecute all causes to which the State was a party and render other services of a similar nature. The person thus appointed and serving would be paid \$45 for each session of a Superior Court attended.
2. Acts of 1817, Chapter 65, Section 3, established ten Solicitorial Districts in the State assigning to

the Tenth District the counties of Dickson, Stewart, Humphreys, Montgomery and Robertson. The Attorney General of the District would represent the State in all the cases to which it was a party and be paid an annual salary of \$150.

3. Acts of 1835-36, Chapter 28, made each Solicitorial District in the State to be co-extensive with each Judicial Circuit which had criminal jurisdiction.
4. Public Acts of 1829, Chapter 29, created the position of Assistant Attorney-General for the 9th judicial Circuit except for Montgomery County. The Assistant must be a licensed attorney, at least 21 years of age, and a resident of the Circuit in which he was appointed. He would assist the Attorney-General as directed, and prepare cases for trial and for the Grand Jury. He would serve at the pleasure of the Attorney-General and be paid \$3,000 per annum. The duties of the person appointed under the terms of this Act would cease when the present Attorney General recovered from his current illness.

### **General Sessions Court**

The following acts once affected the general sessions court of Dickson County, but are no longer in effect and are included herein for reference purposes. Also referenced below are acts which repeal prior law without providing new substantive provisions.

1. Private Acts of 1955, Chapter 412, created a General Sessions Court for which Dickson County was obligated to provide a Court Room at Charlotte, and such supplies, furnishings, dockets and equipment as might be needed by the Court. The Circuit Court Room could be used when it was vacant for the business of this Court whose Judge could adjourn it to other locations in the County as his judgment might dictate. The General Sessions Court would have all the jurisdiction, civil and criminal, formerly possessed by Justices of the Peace from whom all such was hereby divested but who could still collect any fees and costs which might be due them. Court procedures were specified and the amount of costs fixed for trials in the Court. The Governor must appoint the first Judge who would serve until his successor, elected in the general August election of 1956, could take office on September 1, 1956, after which the terms of office would be 8 years. The Judge must be sworn and commissioned and devote full time to the position for which his compensation would be \$4,500 a year, payable in equal monthly installments out of the county general funds, and which could not be changed during the term. The Judge could act as clerk of the court, if desired, but could employ assistance if the total cost did not exceed \$600 per annum. The Sheriff was instructed to wait upon the Court, keep good order, and serve the process of the court when properly issued. This Act was not acted on by the Quarterly Court of Dickson County and therefore never became an effective law under the Home Rule Amendment to the State Constitution.
2. Private Acts of 1972, Chapter 336, was rejected by the Dickson County Quarterly Court and never became an effective law. The Act amended Private Acts of 1957, Chapter 214, in Section One so as to place a maximum amount on rent which could be paid for a court room for the court in the hands of the Quarterly Court of Dickson County. Section 9 was amended to set the Judge's salary at \$15,000 per year, payable in equal monthly installments, provided that an election to fill an unexpired term had been held prior to September 1, 1972. Beginning on September 1, 1974, the base salary of the Judge would be \$17,500 which must be adjusted annually to reflect any cost of living increase appearing during the year. Section 11 was changed to give the Chancellor, or the Circuit Judge, the authority to appoint a temporary Judge of the Court when the regular Judge could not be available.
3. Private Acts of 1972, Chapter 384, provided for a litigation tax in the General Sessions Court but was repealed by Private Acts of 1974, Chapter 235.

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