

[OFFICIAL]

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Passed at the Third Session of the Thirty-seventh
Congress.

[Pursue-No. 21.]
AN ACT to Reorganize the Courts in the District of Columbia, and for Other Purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established in the District of Columbia a court to be called the supreme court of the District of Columbia, which shall have general jurisdiction in law and equity. It shall consist of four justices, one of whom shall be designated as chief justice. These justices shall be appointed by the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall hold their offices during good behavior. Each justice, before he enters upon the duties of his office, shall take the oath prescribed to be taken by judges of the courts of the United States. Any three of said justices may hold a general term, and any one of them may hold a special term, or circuit court, as hereinafter provided. A special term may be held at the same time with a circuit court and by the same justice.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said court shall have power to appoint a clerk, who shall take the oath, and give bond, with sureties, in the manner prescribed by law for clerks of district courts of the United States.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the supreme court organized by this act shall possess the same powers and exercise the same jurisdiction as is now possessed and exercised by the circuit court of the District of Columbia, and the justices of the court so to be organized shall severally possess the powers and exercise the jurisdiction now possessed and exercised by the judges of said circuit court. Any one of said justices may hold a district court of the United States for the district of Columbia, in the same manner and with the same powers and jurisdiction as now possessed and exercised by other district courts of the United States. Any one of said justices may also hold a criminal court for the trial of all crimes and offenses arising within said district, which court shall possess the same powers and exercise the same jurisdiction now possessed and exercised by the criminal court of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That general terms of the said supreme court shall be held at the same times at which terms of the circuit court of the District of Columbia are now required to be held, and at the same place. District courts and criminal courts shall also be held by one of said justices at the several times when such courts are now required by law to be held, and at the same place.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That special terms of said supreme court shall be held by one of said justices, at such time or times as the said court, in general term, shall appoint. Non-enumerated motions in all suits and proceedings at law and in equity shall first be heard and determined at such special terms. Suits in equity, not triable by jury, shall also be heard and determined at such special terms. But the justice holding such special terms may, in his discretion, order any such motion or suit to be heard, to the first instance, at a general term. Any party aggrieved by any order, judgment, or decree, made or pronounced by any such special term, may, if the same involve the merits of the action or proceeding, appeal therefrom to the general term of said supreme court, and upon such appeal the general term shall review such order, judgment, or decree, and affirm, reverse, or modify the same, as shall be just.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the said court, in general term, shall adopt such rules as it may think proper to regulate the time and manner of making appeals from the special term to the general term, and may prescribe the terms and conditions upon which such appeals may be made. Such court may also establish such other rules as it may deem necessary for regulation of the practice of the several courts organized by this act, and from time to time revise and alter such rules.

It may also determine by rule what motions shall be heard at a special term, as non-enumerated motions, and what motions shall be heard at a general term in the first instance.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That all issues of fact triable by a jury or by the court shall be tried before a single justice; when the trial is by jury, at a circuit court or special term. Issues of law may be tried at a circuit court or special term. At any time after issue, and at least ten days before the sitting of the court, either party may give notice of trial. The party giving the notice shall furnish the clerk, at least four days before the sitting of the court, with a note of the issue, containing the title of the action, the names of the attorneys, and the time when the last pleading was served; and the clerk shall thereupon enter the cause upon a calendar according to the date of the issue.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That, upon the trial of a cause, an exception be taken, it may be reduced to writing at the time, or it may be entered on the minutes of the justice, and afterwards settled in such manner as may be provided by the rules of the court, and then stated in writing in a case or bill of exceptions, with so much of the evidence as may be material to the questions to be raised, but such case or bill of exceptions need not be sealed or signed. The justice who tries the cause may, in his discretion, entertain a motion, to be made on his motion, to set aside a verdict and grant a new trial upon a bill of exceptions, or for insufficient evidence, or for excessive damages: Provided, That such motion be made at the same term or circuit, at which the trial was had. When such motion is made and heard upon the minutes, an appeal to the general term may be taken from the decision, in which case a bill of exceptions or cause shall be set in the usual manner.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That a motion for a new trial on a case or bill of exceptions, and an application for judgment on a special verdict or a verdict taken subject to the opinion of the court, shall be heard in the first instance at a general term.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That writs and process issued out of the court hereby organized may be tested in the name of any justice of said court.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That any final judgment, order, or decree of said court may be re-examined and reversed or affirmed in the supreme court of the United States, upon writ of error or appeal, in the same cases and in like manner as is now provided by law in reference

to the final judgments, orders, and decrees of the circuit court of the United States for the District of Columbia.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That any action may be made from the judgments of justice of the peace to the court hereby organized in like manner and in the same cases in which such appeals are now allowed to the circuit court of the United States for the District of Columbia. Such appeals shall be heard and decided at a special term.

Sec. 13. And be it further enacted, That all suits and proceedings which, at the time this act takes effect, shall be pending in any of the courts hereby abolished shall be transferred to the courts to be established under the provisions of this act, and may be prosecuted therein with the same effect as they might have been in such suit. If a commission or letters rogatory to take such testimony shall have been issued from the court in which said suit is pending, on producing the same before the district judge or any district where said witness resides or shall be found, and on due proof being made to such judge that the testimony of any witness is material to the party desiring the same, such judge shall issue a summons to such witness requiring him to appear before the officer or commissioner named in such commission or letters rogatory, to testify in such suit. Such summons shall specify the time and place at which such witness is required to attend, which place shall be within one hundred miles of the place where said witness resides or shall be served with said summons.

Sec. 14. And be it further enacted, That justices of the peace may be removed by the court to be organized under the provisions of this act at a general term, after due notice, and an opportunity to be heard in their defense, and for causes to be assigned in the order of removal.

Sec. 15. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 16. And be it further enacted, That the supreme court organized by this act shall possess the same powers and exercise the same jurisdiction as is now possessed and exercised by the circuit court of the District of Columbia, and the justices of the court so to be organized shall severally possess the powers and exercise the jurisdiction now possessed and exercised by the judges of said circuit court. Any one of said justices may hold a district court of the United States for the district of Columbia, in the same manner and with the same powers and jurisdiction as now possessed and exercised by other district courts of the United States.

Sec. 17. And be it further enacted, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized and empowered to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a suitable person, learned in the law, to revise and codify the laws of the District of Columbia.

Sec. 18. And be it further enacted, That the person who shall be thus appointed shall receive ten dollars per day for his services whilst so employed, and shall render a final report of his revision and codification to Congress on or before the first day of January next.

Approved, March 3, 1863.

[Pursue-No. 22.]
AN ACT to give greater efficiency to the Judicial System of the United States.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That whenever the judge of the supreme court for any circuit, from disability, absence, the accumulation of business in the circuit court in any district within his circuit, or from his having been of counsel or being interested in any case pending in such circuit court, or from any other cause, shall deem it advisable that the circuit court in such district shall be held by the judge of any other circuit, he may request, in writing, the judge of any other circuit to hold the circuit court in such district, during a time to be named in such request; and such request shall be entered upon the journal of the circuit court so to be held. And thereon it shall be lawful for the judge so requested to hold the circuit court in such district, and to exercise all the powers of the judge of such circuit within and for such district during the time named in such request.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the judge of any circuit may order any civil cause certified into any circuit court within his circuit from any court of the United States, to be certified back to the court whence it came; and in such case such cause shall be proceeded by in such court, in all respects, as if the same had not been certified from it: Provided, That if from any cause it shall be improper for the judge of such court to try any such cause so certified back, the same shall be tried by some other judge holding such court, pursuant to the provisions of this act. Whenever, by reason of death or resignation, there shall be no judge of any circuit, the chief justice of the supreme court of the United States may make the requests herein provided for, which shall be operative until such circuit shall be assigned to another judge. In case of a vacancy in the office of marshal or district attorney in any circuit, the judge of such circuit may fill such vacancy, and the person so appointed shall serve until an appointment shall be made by the President, and the appointee has duly qualified, and no longer; and the marshal so appointed shall give bond as if appointed by such judge. The appointment so made shall be in writing, and such writing shall be filed in the clerk's office of the circuit court, and a copy thereof shall be entered upon the journal of such court. The clerk of every court shall give bond in such sum as may be fixed by the court, with sureties to be approved by the court, and a new bond may be required whenever the court shall deem it proper that such bond shall be given. Every marshal's bond so given shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court, and a copy thereof entered upon the journal of the court. A copy of every bond given by a clerk shall be entered on the journal of the court for which he is appointed, and the bond shall be deposited for safe keeping as the court may direct. A certified copy of such entry shall be prima facie proof of the execution of such bond, and of the contents thereof.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act, and the same are hereby repealed.

Approved, March 3, 1863.

[Pursue-No. 23.]
AN ACT to amend an act entitled "An act to further promote the efficiency of the navy," approved December twenty-one, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and for other purposes.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any captain in the navy retired by the act entitled "An act to further promote the efficiency of the navy," approved December twenty-one, eighteen hundred and sixty-one, may be recommended according to law, to be promoted to the grade of commodore upon the retired list.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That section twelve of an act entitled "An act to establish and equalize the grades of line officers of the United States navy," approved July sixteen, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, to wit: "And be it further enacted, That the three senior rear admirals shall wear a square blue flag at the

mainmast head, the next three at the foremast head, and all others at the mizzen," be and the same is hereby repealed.

Approved, March 3, 1863.

[Pursue-No. 24.]
AN ACT to Reorganize the Courts in the District of Columbia, and for Other Purposes.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established in the District of Columbia a court to be called the supreme court of the District of Columbia, which shall have general jurisdiction in law and equity. It shall consist of four justices, one of whom shall be designated as chief justice. These justices shall be appointed by the President, and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall hold their offices during good behavior. Each justice, before he enters upon the duties of his office, shall take the oath prescribed to be taken by judges of the courts of the United States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said court shall have power to appoint a clerk, who shall take the oath, and give bond, with sureties, in the manner prescribed by law for clerks of district courts of the United States.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the supreme court organized by this act shall possess the same powers and exercise the same jurisdiction as is now possessed and exercised by the circuit court of the District of Columbia, and the justices of the court so to be organized shall severally possess the powers and exercise the jurisdiction now possessed and exercised by the judges of said circuit court. Any one of said justices may hold a district court of the United States for the district of Columbia, in the same manner and with the same powers and jurisdiction as now possessed and exercised by other district courts of the United States.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That the supreme court organized by this act shall be held at the same times at which terms of the circuit court of the District of Columbia are now required to be held, and at the same place. District courts and criminal courts shall also be held by one of said justices at the several times when such courts are now required by law to be held, and at the same place.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the supreme court organized by this act shall possess the same powers and exercise the same jurisdiction as is now possessed and exercised by the circuit court of the District of Columbia, and the justices of the court so to be organized shall severally possess the powers and exercise the jurisdiction now possessed and exercised by the judges of said circuit court. Any one of said justices may hold a district court of the United States for the district of Columbia, in the same manner and with the same powers and jurisdiction as now possessed and exercised by other district courts of the United States.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 11. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 12. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

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Sec. 27. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

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Sec. 29. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 30. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 31. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

Sec. 32. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, to be paid quarterly at the treasury of the United States.

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Sec. 42. And be it further enacted, That the justices to be appointed by virtue of this act shall receive an annual salary