

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2613, August 01, 1959 ]**

**AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT  
NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIX, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY ACT OF 1948", AS AMENDED.**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in  
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. Section six of Republic Act Numbered Two hundred and ninety-six, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. *Disposition of moneys paid into court.*—All moneys accruing to the Government in the Supreme Court, in the Court of Appeals, and in the Court of First Instance, including fees, fines, forfeitures, costs, or other miscellaneous receipts, and all trust or depository funds paid into such courts shall be received by the corresponding clerk of court and, in the absence of special provision, shall be paid by him into the National Treasury to the credit of the proper account or fund and under such regulations as shall be prescribed by the Auditor General: *Provided, however,* That twenty per cent of all fees collected shall be set aside as a special fund for the compensation of attorneys *de officio* as may be provided for in the rules of court.

"A clerk shall not receive money belonging to private parties except where the same is paid to him or into court by authority of law."

SEC. 2. Subparagraph five of paragraph three of section seventeen of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"(5) All civil cases in which the value in controversy exceeds two hundred thousand pesos, exclusive of interest and costs, or in which the title or possession of real estate exceeding in value the sum of two hundred thousand pesos to be ascertained by the oath of a party to the cause or by other competent evidence, is involved or brought in question. The Supreme Court shall likewise have exclusive jurisdiction over all appeals in civil cases, even though the value in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, is two hundred thousand pesos or less, when the evidence involved in said cases is the same as the evidence submitted in art appealed civil case within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as provided herein".

SEC. 3. Section forty-four, paragraph (c), of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 44. *Original jurisdiction.*—Courts of First Instance shall have original jurisdiction:

"(c) In all cases in which the demand, exclusive of interest, or the value of the property in controversy, amounts to more than five thousand pesos;"

SEC. 4. Section forty-five of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 45. *Appellate Jurisdiction*.—Courts of First Instance shall have appellate jurisdiction over all cases arising in municipal and justice of the peace courts, in their respective provinces, except over appeals from cases tried by justices of the peace of provincial capitals or municipal judges pursuant to the authority granted under the last paragraph of Section eighty-seven of this Act."

SEC. 5. Section forty-nine of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 49. *Judicial districts*.—Judicial districts for Courts of First Instance in the Philippines are constituted as follows:

"The First Judicial District shall consist of the Provinces of Cagayan, Batanes, Isabela, and Nueva Vizcaya.

"The Second Judicial District, of the Provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Abra, City of Baguio, Mountain Province, and La Union;

"The Third Judicial District, of the Provinces of Pangasinan and Zambales, and the City of Dagupan;

"The Fourth Judicial District, of the Provinces of Nueva Ecija and Tarlac, and Cabanatuan City;

"The Fifth Judicial District, of the Provinces of Pampanga, Bataan and Bulacan;

"The Sixth Judicial District, of the City of Manila;

"The Seventh Judicial District, of the Province of Rizal, Quezon City and Pasay City, the Province of Cavite, City of Cavite, the City of Tagaytay, Trece Martires City and the Province of Palawan;

"The Eighth Judicial District, of the Province of Laguna, the City of San Pablo, the Province of Batangas, the City of Lipa, and Provinces of Oriental Mindoro and Occidental Mindoro;

"The Ninth Judicial District, of the Provinces of Quezon and Camarines Norte;

"The Tenth Judicial District, of the Province of Camarines Sur, Naga City, and the Provinces of Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon and Masbate;

"The Eleventh Judicial District, of the Province of Capiz, Roxas City, the Provinces of Aklan, Romblon, Marinduque and Iloilo, the City of Iloilo, and the Province of Antique;

"The Twelfth Judicial District, of the Province of Occidental Negros, the Cities of Bacolod and Silay, the Province of Oriental Negros, Dumaguete City, and the subprovince of Siquijor;

"The Thirteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Samar, the City of Calbayog, the Province of Leyte, and the Cities of Ormoc and Tacloban;

"The Fourteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Cebu, the City of Cebu and the Province of Bohol;

"The Fifteenth Judicial District, of the Provinces of Surigao and Agusan, Butuan City, the Province of Oriental Misamis, Cagayan de Oro City, the Provinces of Bukidnon and Lanao and the Cities of Iligan and Marawi; and "The Sixteenth Judicial District, of the Province of Davao, the City of Davao, the Province of Cotabato and Occidental Misamis, Ozamiz City, the Provinces of Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City, Basilan City, and the Province of Sulu."

SEC. 6. Section fifty of the same Act, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 50. *Judge of First Instance of Judicial Districts.*— Six judges shall be commissioned for the First Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Cagayan and Batanes, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively, the judge of the second branch to preside also over the Court of First Instance of Batanes; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Isabela, and shall be known as the judges of the first and second branches thereof; and two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Nueva Vizcaya, to be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof.

"Eleven judges shall be commissioned for the Second Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Ilocos Norte; three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Ilocos Sur; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Abra; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the City of Baguio and the Subprovince of Benguet; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of La Union and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Mountain province with jurisdiction covering the whole of Mountain Province, except the City of Baguio and the Subprovince of Benguet.

"Eleven judges shall be commissioned for the Third Judicial District. Nine judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Pangasinan and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth branches thereof, respectively. Two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zambales, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively.

"Five judges shall be commissioned for the Fourth Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Nueva Ecija and Cabanatuan City and shall be known as judges of the first, second, and third branches thereof, respectively; and two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Tarlac, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Fifth Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Pampanga and shall be known as judges of the first, second and third branches thereof, respectively; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of

Bataan; and three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Bulacan and shall be known as judges of the first, second and third branches thereof, respectively.

"Twenty-two judges shall be commissioned for the Sixth Judicial District. They shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Manila and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, twenty-first and twenty-second branches thereof, respectively.

"Thirteen judges shall be commissioned for the Seventh Judicial District. Nine judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Rizal, Quezon City, and Pasay City and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth branches thereof, respectively; three judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Cavite and the Cities of Cavite, Tagaytay, and Trece Martires, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, and third branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Palawan.

"Eight judges shall be commissioned for the Eighth Judicial District. Four judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Laguna and the City of San Pablo, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third and fourth branches thereof, respectively; three judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Batangas and the City of Lipa, and shall be known as judges of the first, second and third branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Mindoro Oriental and Mindoro Occidental.

"Five judges shall be commissioned for the Ninth Judicial District. Four judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Quezon and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third and fourth branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Camarines Norte.

"Twelve judges shall be commissioned for the Tenth Judicial District. Five judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Camarines Sur and Naga City and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth branches thereof, respectively; three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Albay and shall be known as judges of the first, second and third branches thereof; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Catanduanes; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Sorsogon; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Masbate.

"Twelve judges shall be commissioned for the Eleventh Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Capiz and Roxas City and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Romblon; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Marinduque; one judge shall preside over the

Court of First Instance of the Province of Aklan; six judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Iloilo and the City of Iloilo and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth branches thereof respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Antique.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Twelfth Judicial District. Five judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Occidental Negros and the Cities of Bacolod and Silay and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth branches thereof, respectively; and two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Oriental Negros, Dumaguete City, and the Subprovince of Siquijor.

"Thirteen judges shall be commissioned for the Thirteenth Judicial District. Six judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Samar and Calbayog City and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth branches thereof, respectively; and seven judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Leyte and the cities of Ormoc and Tacloban, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh branches thereof, respectively.

"Eleven judges shall be commissioned for the Fourteenth Judicial District. Eight judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Cebu and the City of Cebu, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth branches thereof, respectively; and three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Bohol.

"Nine judges shall be commissioned for the Fifteenth Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Surigao; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Agusan and Butuan City; four judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Oriental Misamis, Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third and fourth branches thereof, respectively; and two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Lanao and the Cities of Marawi and Iligan, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof.

"Thirteen judges shall be commissioned for the Sixteenth Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Davao and Davao City to be known as judges of the first, second and third branches thereof; three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Cotabato, to be known as judges of the first, second and third branches thereof; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Occidental Misamis and Ozamiz City; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zamboanga del Norte to be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zamboanga del Sur; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zamboanga City and Basilan City; and two judges shall preside over the