

[ **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1186, June 20, 1954** ]

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

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

SECTION 1. Sections eleven, twenty-eight, forty, forty-one, forty-two, the second, third, eleventh and twelfth paragraphs of sections forty-nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-two, the second, third, fourth, fifth, seventh, tenth and eleventh sub-paragraphs of the second paragraph of section fifty-four, and section sixty of Republic Act Numbered Two hundred and ninety-six, as amended, are amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 11. *Appointment and compensation of Justices of the Supreme Court.*—The Chief Justice and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall receive a compensation of twenty-one thousand pesos *per annum*, and each Associate Justice shall receive a compensation of twenty thousand pesos *per annum*. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall be so designated in his commission; and the Associate Justices shall have precedence according to the dates of their respective commissions, or, when the commissions of two or more of them bear the same date, according to the which their commissions may have been issued by the President of the Philippines: Provided, however, That any member of the Supreme Court who has been reappointed to that Court after rendering service in any other branch of the Government shall retain the precedence to which he is entitled under his original appointment and his service in the Court shall, to all intents and purposes, be considered as continuous and uninterrupted.

"SEC. 28. *Qualifications and compensation of Justices of Court of Appeals.*—The Justices of the Court of Appeals shall have the same qualifications as those provided in the Constitution for members of the Supreme Court. The Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals shall receive an annual compensation of sixteen thousand pesos, and each Associate Justice, an annual compensation of fifteen thousand pesos.

"SEC. 40. *Judges of First Instance.*—The judicial function in Courts of First Instance shall be vested in District Judges, to be appointed and commissioned as hereinafter provided: *Provided, however,* That those who are District Judges at the time of the approval of this amendatory

Act shall continue as such in their respective districts without need of new appointments by the President of the Philippines and new confirmations by the Commission on Appointments.

"SEC. 41. *Limitation upon tenure of office.*—District shall be appointed to serve during good behavior, until they reach the age of seventy years, or become incapacitated to discharge the duties of their office, unless oner removed in accordance with law.

"SEC. 42. *Qualification and salary.*—No person shall be appointed District Judge unless he has been ten years a citizen of the Philippines and has practiced law in the Philippines for a period of not less than ten years or has held during a like period, within the Philippines, an office requiring admission to the practice of law in the Philippines as an indispensable requisite.

"The District Judge shall receive a compensation at the rate twelve thousand pesos *per annum*.

"SEC. 49. *Judicial Districts.*—Judicial districts for ou of First Instance in the Philippines are constituted 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, IIocos Sur, Abra, City of Baguio, Mountain Province and La Union;

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

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

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"SEC. 50. *Judges of First Instance for Judicial Districts.* —Five judges shall be commissioned for the First Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Cagayan and Batancs, 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 one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Nueva Vizcaya.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Second Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Cour of First Instance of IIocos Norte; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of IIocos 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 Mountain Province; and another judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of La Union.

"Six judges shall be commissioned for the Third Judicial District. Five judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Pangasinan and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third, fourth and fifth branches thereof respectively; two judges shall preside over the Court of Instance of Lingayen to be known as the judges of the first branch and the second branch, respectively; two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the third and fourth branches thereof, respectively, and judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Urdaneta and shall be known as the judge of the fifth branch. One judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Zambales.

"Five judges shall be commissioned for the Fourth Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Courts 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.

"Five judges shall be commissioned for the Fifth Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Pampanga 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 Bataan; and two judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Bulacan and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively.

"Eighteen judges shall be commissioned for the Sixth Judicial District. They shall preside over the Courts 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 and eighteenth branches thereof, respectively.

"Eight judges shall be commissioned for the Seventh Judicial District. Five 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 and fifth branches thereof, respectively; two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of the Province of Cavite and the Cavite and Tagaytay, and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Palawan.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Eighth Judicial District. Three 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 and third branches thereof, respectively; three judge 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, Mindoro Occidental and Marinduque.

"Four judges shall be commissioned for the Ninth Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Quezon 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 Camarines Norte.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Tenth Judicial District, Three 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 and third branches thereof, respectively; two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Albay and Legaspi City and of Catanduanes and shall be known judges of the first and second branches thereof; one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of 1 Province of Sorsogon; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Masbate.

"Seven judges shall be commissioned for the Eleventh Judicial District. Two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Capiz and Romblon and shall be known as judges of the first and second branches thereof, respectively, the judge of the first branch shall also preside over the Court of First Instance of Romblon; and four 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 and fourth branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of the Province of Antique.

"Six judges shall be commissioned for the Twelfth Judicial district. Four judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Occidental Negros and the City of Bacolod, and shall be known as judges of the first, second, third and fourth branches thereof, respectively; and two judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Oriental Negros, Dumaguete City and the sub-province of Siquijor.

"Nine judges shall be commissioned for the Thirteenth Judicial District. Three judges shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Samar and Calbayog City and shall be known as judges of the first, second and third branches thereof, respectively; and six 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 and sixth branches thereof, respectively.

"Six judges shall be commissioned for the Fourteenth Judicial District. Five judges shall preside over the Courts 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 and fifth branches thereof, respectively; and one judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Bohol.

"Five judges shall be commissioned for the Fifteenth Judicial District. One judge shall preside over the Court of First Instance of Surigao; one judge shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Agusan and Butuan City; one judge shall preside over the Courts of First Instance of Oriental