

Criminal Court of Baltimore, except in such appeal cases as are herein assigned to the Baltimore City Court.

SEC. 31. There shall be elected by the legal and qualified voters of said city, at the election, hereinbefore provided for, one Chief Judge and four Associate Judges, who, together, shall constitute the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, and shall hold their offices for the term of fifteen years, subject to the provisions of this Constitution with regard to the election and qualifications of judges and their removal from office, and shall exercise the jurisdiction, hereinafter specified, and shall each receive an annual salary of three thousand five hundred dollars,* payable quarterly, which shall not be diminished during their term of office; but authority is hereby given to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to pay to each of the said judges an annual addition of five hundred dollars to their respective salaries; provided, that the same being once granted shall not be diminished nor increased during the continuance of said judges in office.

Supreme
Bench of
Baltimore
city.

Term.

Salary.

SEC. 32. It shall be the duty of the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, as soon as the judges thereof shall be elected and duly qualified, and from time to time, to provide for the holding of each of the aforesaid courts, by the assignment of one or more of their number to each of the said courts, who may sit either separately or together in the trial of cases; and the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City may, from time to time, change the said assignment, as circumstances may require, and the public interest may demand; and the judge or judges, so assigned to the said several courts, shall, when holding the same, have all the powers and exercise all the jurisdiction which may belong to the court so being held; and it shall also be the duty of the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore city, in case of the sickness, absence or disability of any judge or judges assigned as aforesaid, to provide for the hearing of the cases, or transaction of the business assigned to said judge or judges, as aforesaid, before some one or more of the judges of said court.

Assignment
of judges.

Jackson vs. State, 87 Md., 192.

SEC. 33. The said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City shall have power, and it shall be its duty, to provide for the holding of as many general terms as the performance of its duties may require, such general terms to be held by not less than three judges; to make all needful rules and regulations for the conduct of business in each of the said courts, during the

Supreme
Bench.

Rules.

*Increased by Act of 1892, Chapter 388, to four thousand five hundred dollars.