

such proceedings as the decisions of such question of law may render unnecessary, may therefor be stayed.

Rule 47.

**184.** Any person interested, or claiming to be interested, in any question cognizable by a court of equity, as to the construction of any statute, deed, will, or other instrument of writing, or as to any other matter falling within the original jurisdiction of such court, or made subject to the jurisdiction thereof by statute, may state and raise such question before the court in the form of a special case stated, instead of formal pleading. Every such special case stated shall be entitled as a cause between some one or more of the parties interested, or claiming to be interested, as plaintiff or plaintiffs, and the others of them as defendants; and such special case shall be regularly docketed as a cause pending in said court, and shall be in all respects, and for all purposes, treated and regarded as a pending cause, as if regularly instituted by formal pleading.

Rule 48.

**185.** Such special case shall concisely state such facts and documents as may be necessary to enable the court to decide the question intended to be raised, and it shall be divided into paragraphs, consecutively numbered; and upon the hearing of such case, the court and the parties shall be at liberty to refer to the whole contents of such documents, and the court shall be at liberty to draw from the facts and documents stated and referred to in such special case, any inference which the court might have drawn therefrom if such facts and documents were proved under formal pleading. And upon such special case stated, the court may decree as upon bill and answer, and such decree shall be enforced as other decrees are; but such decree shall in no case conclude or affect the rights of any other persons than those who are parties to such special case, and those claiming under or through such parties; and the right of appeal shall exist as in cases of decrees upon bill and answer.

Rule 49.

**186.** Married women may join in any special case stated, with their husbands, and infants having guardians, and lunatics having