

offense, crime, or misdemeanor, not punishable by confinement in the penitentiary, or involving a felonious intent, which may be committed within the confines of Allegany County, which said jurisdiction shall be exercised as concurrent with the Circuit Court for Allegany County; and they shall have jurisdiction to hear, try and determine all prosecutions and proceedings for the recovery of any penalty for doing or omitting to do any act within Allegany County, the doing of which or omission to do which, is made punishable under the laws of this State, by fine or imprisonment in jail or the House of Correction or any House of Detention; they shall have power to issue process and do all other reasonable acts consistent with existing law, necessary for the exercise of said jurisdiction; and they may pronounce judgment and sentence in all cases coming before them within their jurisdiction in the same manner and to the same extent as the Circuit Court might do; provided, however, that the accused when brought before said Justices shall have a right to demand a jury trial, or the State's Attorney for Allegany County may demand a jury trial, or after judgment an appeal may be taken by the accused or by the State; in which case the accused shall be admitted to bail and recognizance taken and the cause transmitted to the Circuit Court as a criminal appeal or recognizance filed as is now provided by law. Said Justices shall have jurisdiction to hold such hearing or hearings as may be demanded in criminal causes generally, or in which they have no jurisdiction to finally determine, and may hold the accused for the Grand Jury agreeably to existing law; in case of homicide they may hold the accused for the action of the County Coroner and in the absence of the County Coroner, they may perform his duties.

CIVIL JURISDICTION.

Section 179-D. Said Justices of the Peace shall have civil jurisdiction in all cases for the collection of debts, enforcement of contracts and for redress for wrongs where the debt or the damage claimed shall not exceed the sum of Three Hundred Dollars, to all suits on bonds where the penalty does not exceed Three Hundred Dollars; to all actions of replevin where the value of the thing in controversy, after being duly appraised, shall not exceed the sum of Three Hundred Dollars; to all cases of attachment against resident, non-resident or absconding debtors, and to all cases of attachment mentioned in the Code of Public General Laws of Maryland, where the sum claimed does not exceed the sum of Three Hundred Dollars;