

three Associate Judges; the number of such judges may be increased or decreased by the General Assembly by law.

308. THE GOVERNOR, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, SHALL APPOINT TO SAID COURT A CHIEF JUDGE AND TWO ASSOCIATE JUDGES TO TAKE OFFICE ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF JUNE, 1955, FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF MAY, 1959. THE ADDITIONAL ASSOCIATE JUDGE HEREIN PROVIDED SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE, TO TAKE OFFICE JUNE 1, 1957, FOR A TERM EXPIRING ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF MAY, 1961. THEREAFTER SAID JUDGES SHALL BE APPOINTED FOR TERMS OF FOUR YEARS EXPIRING ON THE FIRST MONDAY IN MAY.

309. (a) The People's Court of Baltimore County shall have exclusive original jurisdiction at law in all civil cases arising in Baltimore County, including all cases for the enforcement of contracts, to obtain redress for wrongs, in actions of replevin and attachments as provided in Article 9 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, where the debt or damages claimed or the amount in controversy does not exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and cases between landlord and tenant arising under Article 53 of the Annotated Code of Maryland and Title 17 of the Code of Public Local Laws of Baltimore County, and all civil cases arising in Baltimore County over which Justices of the Peace and Trial Magistrates had jurisdiction prior to June 6, 1955.

(b) Baltimore County is hereby divided into three (3) People's Court Districts, as follows:

Eastern District, comprising that part of Baltimore County lying to the southeast of the Belair Road;

Central District, comprising that part of Baltimore County bounded on the east by the Belair Road and on the west by the Liberty Road; and

Western District, comprising that part of Baltimore County lying to the southwest of the Liberty Road.

(c) No person shall be sued in the People's Court of Baltimore County except in the People's Court District where the defendant resides; provided, however, in the event of any cause of action involving more than one defendant, such cause of action may be brought where any one or more of such defendants reside.

(d) *No corporation shall be sued in the People's Court of Baltimore County except in the People's Court District where the principal office of such corporation is located, or in which it is doing business.*

In the event any question of jurisdiction is raised under sub-section (c) or sub-section (d) before final judgment, the People's Court is authorized to transfer any such cause to the appropriate district for further proceedings.

312. Summons, which shall include as a part thereof a copy of the statement of claim, shall be served upon the defendant named