

magistrates and justices of the peace in said counties shall continue in all respects to be effective as to the People's Court of Montgomery County and to the People's Court of Prince George's County and to the People's Court of Harford County.

100A.

(a) **[**For the purpose of hearing cases within the jurisdiction provided for in Section 6(k), the trial magistrates of Harford County shall be and they are designated as the People's Court of Harford County.

(b) The People's Court of Harford County shall have concurrent original jurisdiction at law in all civil cases arising in Harford 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 this Code, where the debt or damages claimed or the amount in controversy does not exceed the amount specified in Section 6(k) of this article, and cases between landlord and tenant arising under Article 53 of this Code and all civil cases arising in Harford County over which justices of the peace or trial magistrates had jurisdiction prior to January 1, 1960.

(c) ~~All trials of cases before the court~~ *Trials of civil cases before the People's Court of Harford County* shall be conducted in such manner as to do substantial justice between the parties according to the rules of substantive law, the equity and right of the matter, and without regard to technical rules of practice, procedure or pleading.

[d] *(b)* **[**A majority of the magistrates**]** *The judges* of said court, with the approval of the judges of the Circuit Court of Harford County resident therein, **[is]** *are* authorized to prescribe by general rules the practice and procedure in said court including, but not limited to, provision for registered or certified mail service, return days, trial day, practice in suits against nonresidents, attachments, replevins, joint tort-feasors, counterclaims, cross-claims, consolidations, continuances, depositions, dismissals, arbitrations, set-offs, appeal bonds, summary judgments, judgments by default, judgments by confession, supplementary proceedings, new trial and such other matters not inconsistent with law.

(c) **[e]** Any statutory reference to trial magistrates shall be interpreted as meaning the **[magistrates]** *judges* of the People's Court of Harford County including laws controlling fees, costs, and appeals, but not limited thereto. In lieu of the statutory schedule of fees the **[magistrates]** *judges* of the People's Court, with the approval of the judges of the Circuit Court resident in Harford County, may adopt a schedule of fees and costs in all cases filed in said court.

(d) **[f]** Clerical assistance shall be appointed by **[a majority of said magistrates, subject to the approval of expenses and compensation by the County Commissioners of Harford County]** *the said judges* FROM A LIST OF NAMES SUBMITTED TO THEM UNDER THE HARFORD COUNTY MERIT SYSTEM, and the County Commissioners of Harford County shall provide funds for such clerical assistance and for necessary facilities, staff, and equipment at the main court in Bel Air and in the four locations comprising