

Allegheny County and the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County may also by such rules severally fix any amount not more than three thousands dollars (\$3,000) exclusive of interest and costs as the amount in controversy up to which such submissions shall be

required. Cases which are not at issue and whether or not suit has been filed may be referred to the board of arbitration by agreement of reference signed by counsel for both sides in the case. Said agreement of reference shall define the issues involved for determination by the board and, when agreeable, shall also contain stipulations with respect to facts submitted or agreed or defenses waived. In such cases, the agreement of reference shall take the place of the pleadings in the case and be filed of record.

Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1, 1969.

APPROVED—The 2d day of December, A. D. 1968.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER.

No. 357

AN ACT

SB 1763

Establishing the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County and the divisions thereof conformably to the Constitution as amended in 1968; providing for the judges and president judges of the said court and the divisions thereof and defining the effect of this act on certain liens heretofore entered.

The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.—As used in this act—

“Present” or “present jurisdiction” refers to a court, to a judge of a court or to the jurisdiction of a court in existence on December 31, 1968.

“Judiciary Article” means the Judiciary Article of the Constitution approved April 23, 1968.

Section 2. Court Divisions.—The Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County established by the Judiciary Article shall consist of a civil division, a criminal division, an orphans’ court division and a family division. The present courts of oyer and terminer and general jail delivery and quarter sessions of the peace, and the present county court, orphans’ court and juvenile court are abolished and their present jurisdiction shall be exercised by the court of common pleas.

Section 3. Judges.—The judges of the present court of common pleas shall continue to act as judges of the court of common pleas. The judges of the present county court, of the present orphans' court and of the present juvenile court shall become judges of the court of common pleas. The judges of the present orphans' court shall become judges of the orphans' court division. The judges of the present juvenile court shall become judges of the family division. The president judge of the court of common pleas shall assign the judges of the present court of common pleas and of the present county court who shall initially serve in the civil and in the criminal division.

Section 4. President Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.—The present president judge of the present court of common pleas may complete his term as president judge.

Section 5. Presiding Judges of the Court Divisions.—(a) The present president judge of the present orphans' court shall be presiding judge of the orphans' court division for the remainder of his term as president judge, and the president judge of the present county court shall be presiding judge of the family division for the remainder of his term as president judge, all these without diminution of salary as president judge. The presiding judge of the civil division and the presiding judge of the criminal division shall be selected pursuant to this section.

(b) The civil division, the criminal division, the orphans' court division and the family division of the court of common pleas shall each be presided over by a presiding judge, who shall be one of the judges of such division and except as hereinbefore provided shall be elected for a term of five years by a majority vote of the judges of that division. Each such presiding judge shall assist the president judge of the court of common pleas in supervising and administering the business of the court and shall be responsible to him. Subject to the foregoing, the judges of the court of common pleas shall prescribe rules defining the duties of the presiding judges of the court divisions. The president judge of the court of common pleas shall have the power to assign judges from one division to another division of the court when required to expedite the business of the court. The exercise of these supervisory and administrative powers shall be subject to the supervisory and administrative powers of the Supreme Court.

Section 6. Liens.—The provisions of this act shall not affect the lien status of any judgment of any court entered prior to January 1, 1969.

Section 7. Effective Date—This act shall take effect January 1, 1969.

APPROVED—The 2d day of December, A. D. 1968.

RAYMOND P. SHAFER.