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## Physical Face-Lifting Follows Reorganization of Municipal Court

Dicta Editorial Board

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## PHYSICAL FACE-LIFTING FOLLOWS REORGANIZATION OF MUNICIPAL COURT

The Municipal and Justice Courts of the City and County of Denver are going forward with their announced plans of renovating their quarters and streamlining their procedures.

New judges' chambers have been constructed for the two Municipal and Justice Courts, located in the City and County Building, in the quarters formerly occupied by the clerks of the respective divisions. These are the courts assigned to civil matters. The new chambers are spacious, completely redecorated, and refurnished.

The old judges' chambers have been converted into attorneys' conference rooms. These rooms also have been newly redecorated. They provide a direct Denver telephone line for the use and convenience of the attorneys. Redecorating was extended to cover courtrooms and lobbies, as well as chambers.

Another need was recognized in the civil division in the matter of advising attorneys of funds paid into the courts. When payments are now made in the satisfaction of judgments, the attorneys are no longer required to check to see if money is being held. Under the new service, when a payment is made, the financial clerk dispatches a post card to the attorney, notifying him of the case and payment, and that a check drawn on the court registry account may be obtained by presenting the card.

Further changes are planned in the Justice Court procedure by simplifying forms wherever possible. It is proposed to institute a loose leaf type docket sheet, which is typewritten by the clerical staff at the time of the filing of a case, and which, by its loose leaf nature, can accompany the jacket to court, permitting the judge to make all entries on the docket sheet in the first instance. This will eliminate the duplication of effort and wasted time which results from the procedure of posting the judgment on the jacket, then posting on the docket, requiring the judge to sign a docket at a later date.

One of the most significant improvements in the Municipal Court system is the adoption of a new docket system in the traffic division. This was instituted on April 6, 1950. It is a simplified system in which each case has its individual docket sheet, making for greater convenience for attorneys and for the public. When a traffic judge has an overloaded docket, the excess cases are transferred to another judge, with a minimum of confusion and lost time. It is planned to extend the new docket to the division handling police matters.

The four municipal judges meet weekly to discuss problems, proposed changes, and new ideas which have been presented for their consideration. They welcome suggestions from the bar.