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Municipal Court Highlights - Small Claims Court Begins Operation

Dicta Editorial Board

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MUNICIPAL COURT HIGHLIGHTS —

SMALL CLAIMS COURT BEGINS OPERATION

Denver's new small claims court went into operation September 1. It is part of the Municipal Court system; currently the cases will be tried by the present municipal judges. The court was established by Ordinance 147, Series of 1950, of the city council, pursuant to Chapter 159 of the Session laws of 1939, being Chapter 149A, Colorado Statutes Annotated 1935.

The jurisdiction of the new court covers amounts which do not exceed \$50.00, except when the claim is for wages or salary earned, or for work or labor performed under any contract, when a jurisdictional limit of \$100.00 will be observed, all exclusive of costs.

Under the act no action may be brought by any assignee of such action or upon any assigned claim. Service in the cases is provided by registered mail. While the act specifically provides that any attorney-at-law or any other person other than the plaintiff and defendant may not appear or take part in the filing or prosecution of the litigation, there is an opportunity for lawyers to perform a public service by advising persons of their rights to have the small claims heard by the new court. The docket fee is \$1.00 in these cases, and forms for filing, which are very simple, are provided by the clerks' office.

The following is, in part, the memorandum issued by Presiding Municipal Judge David Brofman to his fellow judges covering agreed-upon arrangements for the new set-up:

Pursuant to our discussions, sessions of the court will commence at 7 o'clock P. M. on Thursday of each week. If the workload requires, additional hours will be agreed upon by the judges. It was our understanding that a session on the first Thursday after the effective date of the court will not be necessary. It has further been agreed by the judges that each of the judges will sit in said court for one month on a rotation plan.

Pursuant to the above, the following schedule will be effective:

September 14, 21, 28, October 5—Judge Brofman.

October 19, 26, November 2—Judge McWilliams.

November 9, 16, 30—Judge Hickey.

December 7, 14, 21, 28—Judge Oyler.

Commencing January 1, 1951, each Municipal Judge will preside in the Small Claims Court every fourth month under the same rotation plan mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

Small Claim Court cases will be accepted for filing in the consolidated clerks' office of the Municipal and Justice Courts, Room 179, City and County Building.

All Small Claim Court cases are to be tried in Division Three, Room 180, or the adjacent court chambers.

Denver's Traffic Court has received outstanding recognition for the second time in three years. In August an announcement was made by the National Safety Council that the Denver Traffic Court ranked first for cities of comparable population.

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