

Prior law provided that the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court shall have nine judges. New law maintains nine judges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court by abolishing the judgeship comprising Division H effective midnight, Dec. 31, 2014, or at any earlier time upon such judgeship becoming vacant for any reason and creating a new judgeship effective Jan. 1, 2015, or at any earlier time upon the judgeship in the former Division H becoming vacant. New law requires that this new judgeship shall preside over Division J and provides that the subject matter for such division limited to family matters as provided by law. The creation of this judgeship shall not affect any other judge of the district.

Prior law authorized the judges of the Civil District Court for the parish of Orleans who are in office on July 1, 1979, to create the Domestic Relations Section of that court, by rule of court by the judges sitting en banc. The rule shall designate not less than two incumbent judges who shall be assigned to the Domestic Relations Section in accordance with the rules of the Civil District Court for the parish of Orleans. New law retains prior law. New law provides that the first two judgeships becoming vacant by death, resignation, retirement, or removal, on or after Aug. 15, 2011, shall be abolished and two new judgeships shall be created and limited to family matters including domestic relations matters. Provides for an exception to new law for Divisions B and E unless there is a vacancy in one or both of those divisions on or after Feb. 1, 2012. New law applies to the Civil District Court for the parish of Orleans or to the 41<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court, whichever is applicable, and shall supersede to the extent of conflict with any other provision of law.

Prior law (R.S. 13:1139(A)) provided for the transfer of certain cases to the Domestic Relations Section of the Civil District Court for the parish of Orleans. New law repeals prior law.

New law provides that the individuals to be elected to the judgeships created in new law shall be elected for a six year term at the congressional election held in 2014, and every sixth year thereafter. However, if any of the divisions authorized by new law is created earlier than Jan. 1, 2015, the election to such division shall be for a term which shall end Dec. 31, 2014, and for six year terms thereafter.

New law provides that the judges and their successors created by new law shall be elected at large and shall have jurisdiction throughout the applicable district.

New law provides that the judges and their successors created by new law shall receive the same compensation and expense allowances, payable from the same sources and in the same manner, as are now or may hereafter be provided for other judges of the applicable district. In the Civil District Court for the parish of Orleans, or the 41<sup>st</sup> Judicial District Court, as applicable, the judges and their successors shall have the right to appoint a crier, stenographer, and minute clerk for their own division, and shall have the same staff and resources as other judges in that district court, who shall perform the same duties and receive the same compensation, payable in the same manner and from the same sources, as similar officials in other divisions of the court.

New law does not reduce the term of office or the jurisdiction of any other judge of the districts affected by new law.

Effective June 29, 2011.

(Amends R.S. 13:621.21 and 1138, and Section 19(A) of Act 621 of 2006 R.S., as amended by Act 873 of 2008 R.S.; repeals R.S. 13:1139(A))