

provisions of the Colorado River Compact, the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact, the Boulder Canyon Project Act, the Boulder Canyon Project Adjustment Act, and the Treaty with the United Mexican States, in the storage and release of water from reservoirs in the Colorado River Basin. In the event of the failure of the Secretary of the Interior to so comply, any State of the Colorado River Basin may maintain an action in the Supreme Court of the United States to enforce the provisions of this section, and consent is given to the joinder of the United States as a party in such suit or suits, as a defendant or otherwise.

SEC. 15. The Secretary of the Interior is directed to continue studies and to make a report to the Congress and to the States of the Colorado River Basin on the quality of water of the Colorado River.

SEC. 16. As used in this Act—

The terms "Colorado River Basin", "Colorado River Compact", "Colorado River System", "Lee Ferry", "States of the Upper Division", "Upper Basin", and "domestic use" shall have the meaning ascribed to them in article II of the Upper Colorado River Basin Compact;

The term "States of the Upper Colorado River Basin" shall mean the States of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming;

The term "Upper Colorado River Basin" shall have the same meaning as the term "Upper Basin";

The term "Upper Colorado River Basin Compact" shall mean that certain compact executed on October 11, 1948 by commissioners representing the States of Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, and consented to by the Congress of the United States of America by Act of April 6, 1949 (63 Stat. 31);

The term "Rio Grande Compact" shall mean that certain compact executed on March 18, 1938, by commissioners representing the States of Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas and consented to by the Congress of the United States of America by Act of May 31, 1939 (53 Stat. 785);

The term "Treaty with the United Mexican States" shall mean that certain treaty between the United States of America and the United Mexican States, signed at Washington, District of Columbia, February 3, 1944, relating to the utilization of the waters of the Colorado River and other rivers, as amended and supplemented by the protocol dated November 14, 1944, and the understandings recited in the Senate resolution of April 18, 1945, advising and consenting to ratification thereof.

Approved April 11, 1956.

Public Law 486

CHAPTER 204

AN ACT

To establish a Domestic Relations Branch in the Municipal Court for the District of Columbia, and for other purposes.

April 11, 1956  
[S. 1289]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH, MUNICIPAL COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SEC. 101. That there is hereby created in the Municipal Court for the District of Columbia a Domestic Relations Branch.

SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act—

(a) "Branch" and "Domestic Relations Branch" mean the Do-

63 Stat. 31.  
45 Stat. 1057; 54  
Stat. 774.  
43 USC 617 note,  
618o.  
59 Stat. 1219.

Report to Con-  
gress.

Definitions.

59 Stat. 1219.

"Branch", "Do-  
mestic Relations  
Branch".

mestic Relations Branch of the Municipal Court for the District of Columbia created by this Act;

"Court."

(b) "Court" means the Municipal Court for the District of Columbia and the several judges thereof.

D. C. Code 11-752.

SEC. 103. (a) ADDITIONAL JUDGES.—The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize the appointment of three additional judges of the municipal court for the District of Columbia and to prescribe the qualifications of appointees to the municipal court and the municipal court of appeals, and for other purposes", approved October 25, 1949 (63 Stat. 887), is hereby amended by striking therefrom "thirteen" and inserting in lieu thereof "sixteen".

(b) The judges appointed to the additional positions authorized by the amendments set forth in subsection (a) of this section shall during their tenures of office serve as judges of the Domestic Relations Branch, but the chief judge of the court may, if he finds the work in the Domestic Relations Branch will not be adversely affected thereby assign any of said judges of the Domestic Relations Branch to perform the duties of any other judge of the court. The chief judge of the court shall also have the authority to assign any of the other judges of the court to serve temporarily in the Domestic Relations Branch if, in the opinion of the said chief judge, the work of the Domestic Relations Branch requires such assignment.

Personnel.

SEC. 104. The Judges of the Domestic Relations Branch, with the approval of the chief judge of the court, shall have authority to appoint and remove a clerk and such other personnel as may be necessary for the operation of the branch.

SEC. 105. JURISDICTION OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH.—The Domestic Relations Branch and each judge sitting therein shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all actions for divorce from the bond of marriage and legal separation from bed and board, including proceedings incidental to such actions for alimony, pendente lite and permanent, and for support and custody of minor children; applications for revocation of divorce from bed and board; civil actions to enforce support of minor children; civil actions to enforce support of wife; actions seeking custody of minor children; actions to declare marriages void; actions to declare marriages valid; actions for annulments of marriage; and proceedings in adoption.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to divest the United States District Court for the District of Columbia of jurisdiction and power to consider, and to enter and enforce judgments, orders, and decrees in any such action, application or proceeding filed in such court prior to the effective date of this section to the same extent as if this Act had not been enacted.

SEC. 106. (a) DOMESTIC RELATIONS BRANCH VESTED WITH POWER TO EFFECTUATE PURPOSES OF ACT.—The Domestic Relations Branch is hereby vested with so much of the power as is now vested in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, whether in law or in equity, as is necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Act, including but not limited to, the power to issue restraining orders, injunctions, writs of habeas corpus, and ne exeat, and all other writs, orders, and decrees.

(b) The Domestic Relations Branch shall have the same power to enforce and execute judgments, orders, and decrees entered by it as is now vested in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Judgments of the branch shall have the same legal status as liens upon real estate as judgments of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

SEC. 107. (a) AMENDMENTS OF STATUTES.—Section 963 of the Act approved March 3, 1901 (31 Stat. 1345, ch. 845), as amended by the Act approved June 21, 1949 (63 Stat. 215, ch. 233; sec. 16-416, D. C. Code, 1951 edition), is amended by striking therefrom "United States

District Court for the District of Columbia", and inserting in lieu thereof "Domestic Relations Branch of the Municipal Court for the District of Columbia".

(b) Subsection (a) of section 3, and section 13 of the Act entitled "An Act to prescribe and regulate the procedure for adoption in the District of Columbia", approved June 8, 1954 (68 Stat. 241), is amended by striking therefrom "United States District" and inserting in lieu thereof "Domestic Relations Branch of the Municipal".

D. C. Code 16-210, 16-220.

(c) Section 6 of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the placing of children in family homes, and for other purposes", approved April 22, 1944 (58 Stat. 194), as amended, is amended by striking "Office of the Clerk of the District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia" and by striking "Office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia", and by inserting in lieu of each such phrase "Domestic Relations Branch of the Municipal Court for the District of Columbia".

D. C. Code 32-786.

SEC. 108. DOCKET.—A separate docket shall be maintained for the Domestic Relations Branch. There shall be recorded in such docket the actions taken at each stage of each action and proceeding instituted or conducted in the branch.

SEC. 109. PROCESS.—Service of process for the Domestic Relations Branch shall be made by the United States marshal for the District of Columbia or by any of his authorized assistants. Service of process for the Domestic Relations Branch may also be had by publication in the same manner as service of process is had by publication for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

SEC. 110. RULES.—The judges of the Domestic Relations Branch, with the approval of the chief judge of the court, shall by rules prescribe the fees, charges, and costs and the forms of process, writs, pleadings, and motions, and the practice and procedure in actions and proceedings in the Domestic Relations Branch. Such rules shall neither abridge, enlarge, nor modify the substantive rights of any litigant. Except as otherwise specifically provided by such rules, the applicable Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall govern in the branch.

SEC. 111. APPEALS.—Any party aggrieved by any final or interlocutory order or judgment entered in the Domestic Relations Branch shall have the same right of appeal available in respect to any final or interlocutory order or judgment entered in the civil branch of the court.

SEC. 112. SESSIONS.—The Domestic Relations Branch, with at least one judge in attendance, shall be open for the transaction of business every day of the year except Saturday afternoons, Sundays, and legal holidays, and, if deemed necessary, may also hold night sessions.

SEC. 113. JURISDICTION OF JUVENILE COURT NOT AFFECTED.—Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed so as to affect or diminish the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court of the District of Columbia, or any judge presiding therein.

SEC. 114. APPROPRIATIONS AUTHORIZED.—Appropriations for expenses necessary for the operation of the Domestic Relations Branch, including personal services, are hereby authorized.

SEC. 115. EFFECTIVE DATES.—This Act, except sections 105, 106, and 107, shall take effect upon its approval. Sections 105, 106, and 107 shall take effect thirty days after the appointment and qualification of the three additional judges authorized by this Act to be appointed to the court.

Approved April 11, 1956.