

“(3) Proactive efforts should be made available in all forums to provide pro bono legal services and eliminate the violence that destroys lives and shatters families.

“(4) A variety of factors cause domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and a variety of solutions at the local, State, and national levels are necessary to combat such violence or behavior.

“(5) According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, which conducted a census including almost 1,700 assistance programs, over the course of 1 day in September 2014, more than 10,000 requests for services, including legal representation, were not met.

“(6) Pro bono assistance can help fill this need by providing not only legal representation, but also access to emergency shelter, transportation, and childcare.

“(7) Research and studies have demonstrated that the provision of legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking reduces the probability of such violence or behavior reoccurring in the future and can help survivors move forward.

“(8) Legal representation increases the possibility of successfully obtaining a protective order against an attacker, which prevents further mental and physical injury to a victim and his or her family, as demonstrated by a study that found that 83 percent of victims represented by an attorney were able to obtain a protective order, whereas only 32 percent of victims without an attorney were able to do so.

“(9) The American Bar Association Model Rules include commentary stating that ‘every lawyer, regardless of professional prominence or professional workload, has a responsibility to provide legal services to those unable to pay, and personal involvement in the problems of the disadvantaged can be one of the most rewarding experiences in the life of a lawyer’.

“(10) As leaders in their legal communities, judges in district courts should encourage lawyers to provide pro bono resources in an effort to help victims of such violence or behavior escape the cycle of abuse.

“(11) A dedicated army of pro bono attorneys focused on this mission will inspire others to devote efforts to this cause and will raise awareness of the scourge of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout the country.

“(12) Communities, by providing awareness of pro bono legal services and assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, will empower those survivors to move forward with their lives.

“SEC. 3. DISTRICT COURTS TO PROMOTE EMPOWERMENT EVENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Sept. 4, 2018], and annually thereafter, the chief judge, or his or her designee, for each judicial district shall lead not less than one public event, in partnership with a State, local, tribal, or territorial domestic violence service provider or coalition and a State or local volunteer lawyer project, promoting pro bono legal services as a critical way in which to empower survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and engage citizens in assisting those survivors.

“(b) DISTRICTS CONTAINING INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—During each 2-year period, the chief judge, or his or her designee, for a judicial district that contains an Indian tribe or tribal organization (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) shall lead not less than one public event promoting pro bono legal services under subsection (a) of this section in partnership with an Indian tribe or tribal organization with the intent of increasing the provision of pro bono legal services for Indian or Alaska Native victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

“(c) REQUIREMENTS.—Each chief judge shall—

“(1) have discretion as to the design, organization, and implementation of the public events required under subsection (a); and

“(2) in conducting a public event under subsection (a), seek to maximize the local impact of the event and the provision of access to high quality pro bono legal services by survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

“SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES COURTS.—Not later than October 30 of each year, each chief judge shall submit to the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts a report detailing each public event conducted under section 3 during the previous fiscal year.

“(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1 of each year, the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall submit to Congress a compilation and summary of each report received under subsection (a) for the previous fiscal year.

“(2) REQUIREMENT.—Each comprehensive report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include an analysis of how each public event meets the goals set forth in this Act as well as suggestions on how to improve future public events.

“SEC. 5. FUNDING.

“The Administrative Office of the United States Courts shall use existing funds to carry out the requirements of this Act.”

§ 81. Alabama

Alabama is divided into three judicial districts to be known as the Northern, Middle, and Southern Districts of Alabama.

Northern District

(a) The Northern District comprises five divisions.

(1) The Northwestern Division comprises the counties of Colbert, Franklin, Lauderdale, and Lawrence.

Court for the Northwestern Division shall be held at Florence.

(2) The Northeastern Division comprises the counties of Cullman, Jackson, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, and Morgan.

Court for the Northeastern Division shall be held at Huntsville.

(3) The Southern Division comprises the counties of Blount, Jefferson, and Shelby.

Court for the Southern Division shall be held at Birmingham.

(4) The Eastern Division comprises the counties of Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Saint Clair, and Talladega.

Court for the Eastern Division shall be held at Anniston.

(5) The Western Division comprises the counties of Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Lamar, Marion, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and Winston.

Court for the Western Division shall be held at Tuscaloosa.

Middle District

(b) The Middle District comprises three divisions.

- (1) The Northern Division comprises the counties of Autauga, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chilton, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Elmore, Lowndes, Montgomery, and Pike.

Court for the Northern Division shall be held at Montgomery.

- (2) The Southern Division comprises the counties of Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston.

Court for the Southern Division shall be held at Dothan.

- (3) The Eastern Division comprises the counties of Chambers, Lee, Macon, Randolph, Russell, and Tallapoosa.

Court for the Eastern Division shall be held at Opelika.

Southern District

- (c) The Southern District comprises two divisions.

- (1) The Northern Division comprises the counties of Dallas, Hale, Marengo, Perry, and Wilcox.

Court for the Northern Division shall be held at Selma.

- (2) The Southern Division comprises the counties of Baldwin, Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Escambia, Mobile, Monroe, and Washington.

Court for the Southern Division shall be held at Mobile.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 873; Pub. L. 87-36, §3(a), May 19, 1961, 75 Stat. 83; Pub. L. 118-179, §1, Dec. 23, 2024, 138 Stat. 2613.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 28, U.S.C., 1940 ed. §142 (Mar. 3, 1911, ch. 231, §70, 36 Stat. 1105; Feb. 28, 1913, ch. 89, 37 Stat. 698; June 27, 1922, ch. 247, 42 Stat. 667).

Provisions relating to the places for the maintenance of the clerks' offices were omitted as covered by section 751 of this title, providing that deputy clerks may be designated to reside and maintain offices at such places for holding court as the judge may determine.

Provisions that the offices of the court shall be kept open at all times were omitted as covered by section 452 of this title.

A provision requiring the district judge for the northern district to reside at Birmingham was omitted as incongruous with section 134 of this title, requiring every district judge to reside within the district for which he is appointed. Likewise the provision of section 142 of title 28, U.S.C., 1940 ed., requiring the court to remain in session at Birmingham at least 6 months in each calendar year was omitted as unnecessary and not in harmony with provisions respecting other districts.

The provisions for furnishing rooms and accommodations at Florence, Gadsden, Jasper and Opelika were omitted as obsolete upon advice of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts that Federal accommodations are now available in each of these places.

Changes in arrangement and phraseology were made.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 118-179, §1(1), substituted “five” for “seven” in introductory provisions.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 118-179, §1(2), substituted “Lauderdale, and Lawrence” for “and Lauderdale”.

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 118-179, §1(3), struck out Lawrence and added Marshall to the counties comprising

the Northeastern Division of the Northern District and struck out “and Decatur” after “Huntsville”.

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 118-179, §1(4), substituted “Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Saint Clair,” for “Clay, Cleburne.”

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 118-179, §1(5), substituted “Fayette, Greene, Lamar, Marion, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, Walker, and Winston” for “Greene, Pickens, Sumter, and Tuscaloosa”.

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 118-179, §1(6), struck out par. (6) which read as follows: “The Middle Division comprises the counties of Cherokee, De Kalb, Etowah, Marshall, and Saint Clair.

“Court for the Middle Division shall be held at Gadsden.”

Subsec. (a)(7). Pub. L. 118-179, §1(7), struck out par. (7) which read as follows: “The Jasper Division comprises the counties of Fayette, Lamar, Marion, Walker, and Winston.

“Court for the Jasper Division shall be held at Jasper.”

1961—Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 87-36 provided for holding court at Decatur.

§ 81A. Alaska

Alaska constitutes one judicial district.

Court shall be held at Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, and Nome.

(Added Pub. L. 85-508, §12(b), July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 348; amended Pub. L. 86-70, §23(b), June 25, 1959, 73 Stat. 147.)

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1959—Pub. L. 86-70 inserted “Ketchikan.”

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1959 AMENDMENT

Section 12 of Pub. L. 85-508 provided in part that this section, and the amendments to sections 133, 333, 373, 376, 460, 610, 753, 1252, 1291, 1292, 1294, 1346, 1963, 2072, 2201 and 2410 of this title, section 341b of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees, and sections 3241, 3401, 3771 and 3772 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, are effective on the admission of Alaska into the Union. Admission as a State was accomplished Jan. 3, 1959 upon issuance of Proc. No. 3269, Jan. 3, 1959, 24 F.R. 81, 73 Stat. c16, as required by sections 1 and 8(c) of Pub. L. 85-508. See notes set out preceding section 21 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

CONTINUATION OF SUITS

Pub. L. 85-508, §13, July 7, 1958, 72 Stat. 349, provided that: “No writ, action, indictment, cause, or proceeding pending in the District Court for the Territory of Alaska on the date when said Territory shall become a State, and no case pending in an appellate court upon appeal from the District Court for the Territory of Alaska at the time said Territory shall become a State, shall abate by the admission of the State of Alaska into the Union, but the same shall be transferred and proceeded with as hereinafter provided.

“All civil causes of action and all criminal offenses which shall have arisen or been committed prior to the admission of said State, but as to which no suit, action, or prosecution shall be pending at the date of such admission, shall be subject to prosecution in the appropriate State courts or in the United States District Court for the District of Alaska in like manner, to the same extent, and with like right of appellate review, as if said State had been created and said courts had been established prior to the accrual of said causes of action or the commission of such offenses; and such of said criminal offenses as shall have been committed against the laws of the Territory shall be tried and punished by