

An aerial photograph of New Orleans, Louisiana, showing a dense grid of streets and buildings. A large river is visible on the right side of the image. The text 'Court Consolidation' is overlaid in the upper center.

Court Consolidation

Sponsored by
New Orleans Bar Association
Located in the City that Care Rebuilt

ACT 621

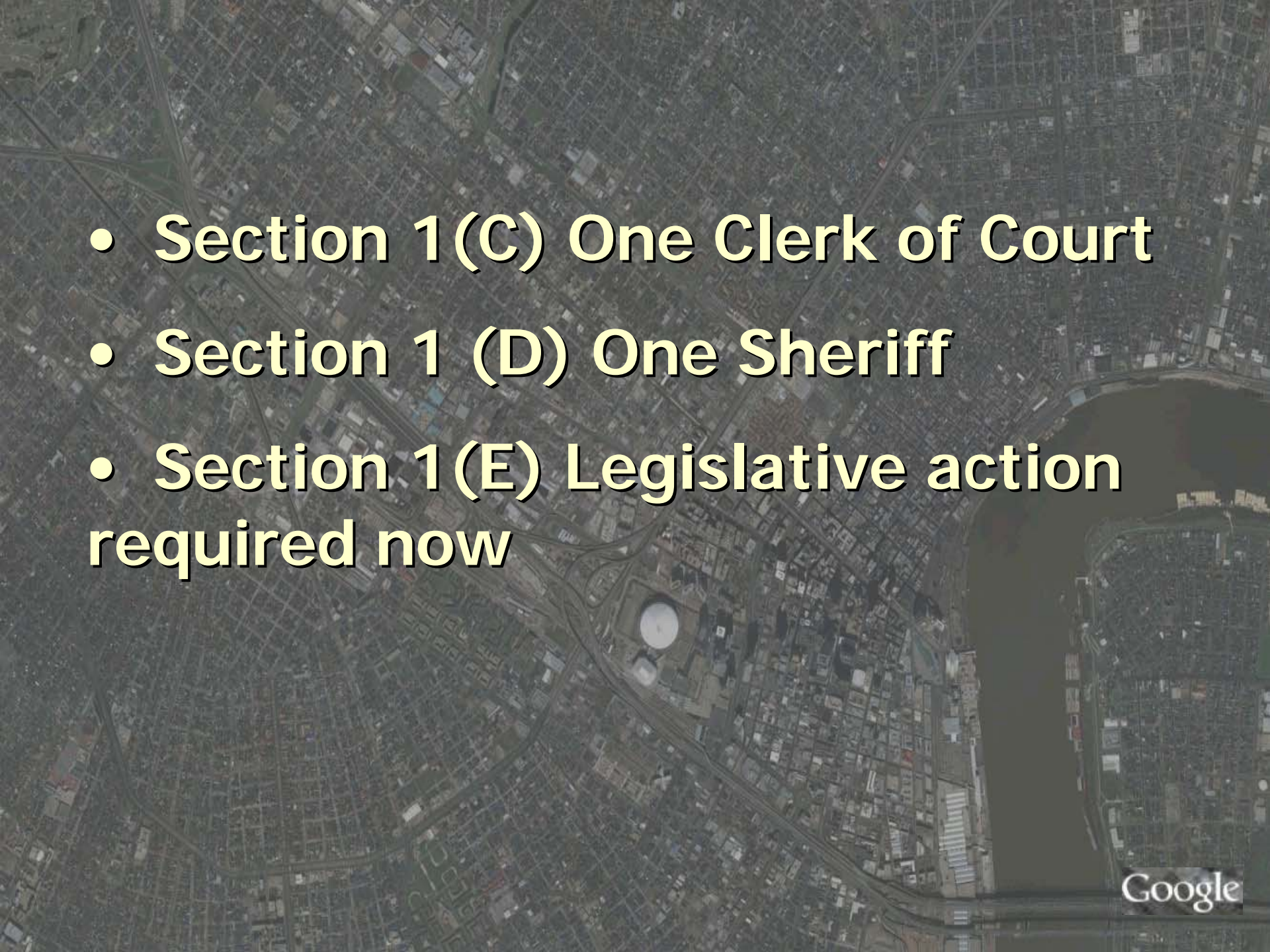
- Legislative Intent
- One District Court
- One Clerk of 41st JDC
- One Sheriff
- Dates
- Judges, Divisions & Jurisdiction
- Elections
- Juvenile Court
- Parochial Offices

Act 621: Section 1(A) (Legislative Intent)

- *"... fragmented and inefficient"*
- *"...costs of operating one district court, one clerk of court and one sheriff will inherently be less due to economies of scale."*
- *"... critical to the future financial stability of the city..."*

One District Court

"It is the intent of the legislature that there be one district court for the Parish of Orleans – the Forty-First Judicial District Court."

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- An aerial photograph of a city grid, likely New York City, showing a dense network of streets and buildings. A large body of water is visible on the right side, and a stadium with a white roof is prominent in the lower center. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.
- **Section 1 (C) One Clerk of Court**
 - **Section 1 (D) One Sheriff**
 - **Section 1 (E) Legislative action required now**

One Sheriff

- Criminal and Civil Sheriffs are abolished
- One sheriff elected at the 2010 municipal elections
- Takes office first Monday in May following elections

Court Consolidation Timeline

La. Legislature
2006 Regular Session

ACT 621 Passed

October 4, 2008

Judicial Elections for Civil &
Criminal Divisions

January 1, 2009

Judges Begin Serving in 41st JDC

May 3, 2010

41st JDC Clerk of Court and Sheriff
Begin Serving

December 31, 2014

Orleans Juvenile Court Abolished

January 1, 2009

- 41st JDC Created
- 26 judges and 1 magistrate judge
- Same jurisdiction
- May assign certain divisions to criminal, civil, domestic or other sections
- All shall retain general jurisdiction

41st JDC: January 1, 2009

- Divisions A through Z
 - Civil Divisions A through N
 - Criminal Divisions M through Z
 - One Magistrate Section
- Judges serve until December 31 of year their terms expire
- Municipal & Traffic Courts
- Appellate jurisdiction over city courts where cases not exceed \$100

Elections

- Judges elected for 6-year terms
- Take office on January 1st following election and serve through December 31st of term
- Candidates must designate division they're running for
- Judge oldest in service in each division shall preside; where same, the oldest judge

Sections

- **Domestic Relations Section**
 - 3 Judges
- **Magistrate Section**
 - 1 Mag. Judge presides
 - 4 Commissioners
 - 6-year terms
 - Shall not practice before 41st

Clerk of the 41st JDC

- One Clerk
- Election held at time of election for parochial and municipal offices
 - Takes office May 3, 2010
 - Civil and Criminal Clerks serve in respective offices until 5/3/10
 - Deposits “no less than 60% of amounts collected into Clerk’s Operational Fund”

Clerk of the 41st JDC

- Consolidated Judicial Expense Fund
- Committee to Oversee Fund
 - 3 CDC judges
 - 3 CrDC judges
 - 1 City Court judge
 - 1 Juvenile Court judge
- January 1, 2009: all money transferred to CJEF
- May use money to pay for new courthouse

Abolished January 1, 2009 and Merged into 41st JDC:

- Recorder of Mortgages
- Registrar of Conveyances
- Custodian of Notarial Archives

*Duties assumed by CDC Clerk
until new clerk elected
at the 2010 elections.*

Juvenile Court

- Abolished December 31, 2014
- Judicial terms extended to 2014
- On January 1, 2015:
 - All cases transferred to 41st JDC
 - 6 new judgeships created
 - 6 yr. terms at congress. elections in 2014; take office 1/1/15
 - 41st JDC creates Juvenile Section
 - 41st JDC designates not less than 6 judges assigned to all juvenile matters

Vacancy

If a vacancy occurs in civil or criminal courts, clerk of court, or sheriff, no special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

What's Next ?

- Where do we go from here?
- Is Act 621 constitutional?
- What possible amendments or clarifications to Act 621 can be made?

An aerial satellite view of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense grid of buildings and streets. A large river, the Hudson River, flows along the right side of the image. In the center, a large stadium with a white roof is visible. The text "Special Thanks to Our Distinguished Panelists and Our Audience" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow font with a black outline.

**Special Thanks to
Our Distinguished Panelists
and Our Audience**