

AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE REVISED CODE OF LAW OF LIBERIA, ALSO KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY LAW OF 1972, BY ADDING CHAPTER 26 ESTABLISHING CRIMINAL COURT “F” OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, AND SPECIAL DIVISIONS OF THE CIRCUIT COURTS OF THE OTHER COUNTIES OF THE REPUBLIC TO HAVE EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION OVER THE CRIME OF CORRUPTION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BRIBERY, EMBEZZLEMENT, EXTORTION, FRAUD, INFLUENCE PEDDLING, INSIDER TRADING, MISUSE OF ENTRUSTED PUBLIC PROPERTY AND VESTED AUTHORITY, MONEY LAUNDERING, UNJUST ENRICHMENT, AND ANY ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES, WHICH ARE NOW PROVIDED FOR UNDER THE PENAL CODE OF LIBERIA, OR MAY, HEREAFTER, BE DEFINED AND ENACTED.

APPROVED: FEBRUARY 2021.

**PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

Section 26.1. Jurisdiction.

1. The Corruption And Related Financial Offenses Court, Criminal Court “F” Of The First Judicial Circuit, And The Criminal Division Of The Circuit Courts Of The Other Counties Shall Have Exclusive Original Jurisdiction Over All New Cases Of Corruption And Related Financial Offenses Initiated By Formal Charge Made On Or After The Effective Date Of This Act Under Sub Chapter D Of Chapter 14 Of The Penal Law, Title 26, Namely The Crime Of Bribery, Embezzlement, Extortion, Fraud, Influence Peddling, Insider Trading, Misuse Of Entrusted Public Property And Vested Authority, Money Laundering, Unjust Enrichment, And Any Economic And Financial Crimes And Any Such Other Crimes As May From Time To Time Be Added As Corruption Or Related Financial Offence To The Aforesaid Sub-Chapter D Of Chapter 14 And 16 Of The Penal Law. Criminal Court “F” And The Criminal Division Of The Circuit Courts In The Other Counties Shall Also Have Exclusive Original Jurisdiction Over All Cases Of Corruption Where An Appeal Is Now Pending And Where The Supreme Court Directs A New Trial After The Effective Date Of This Act.
2. Further Pursuant To Paragraph 1 Above, All Corruption And Related Financial Offenses Cases Previously Venue Before The Criminal Assizes Of The First Judicial Circuit, Except As To Those Wherein Trials Have Commenced, Shall Be Transferred To Criminal Court “F” Immediately Upon The Said Court Being Operationalized.

Section 26.2: Procedure

The procedure for the enforcement of the mandate and judgement of Corruption and Financial Offense Division of the Circuit Court shall be the same as that of Circuit Courts in Criminal Cases.

The Circuit Judge appointed to the corruption and financial offenses court shall exercise the power to grant interim relieve and issue orders in the nature of prohibition, addressed to inferior courts not of record, and their officers in the exercise or aid of the appellate jurisdiction over inferior courts.

Section 26.3: Appointment and tenure

The President of the Republic shall nominate and with the consent of the senate, appoint and commission two judges of circuit court stature, who by assignment of the Chief Justice, shall preside over the corruption and related financial offences court, Criminal Court “F” of the first Judicial Circuit , Montserrado county. The qualification criteria laid down in Article 69a and b, 71, 72b of the Constitution of Liberia shall apply.

Section 26.4: Sessions

The Corruption and Related Financial Offenses Court, Criminal Court “F” of the first Judicial Circuit, Montserrado County shall convene in semiannual sessions and shall run for a period of six months. The first session shall convent on the second Tuesday in June.

The court will take minutes of all hearing held during the session; issue venire of jurors, and provide the Supreme Court of Liberia monthly a summary of all cases tries in the immediate proceeding period and whether appeal therefrom has been taken

Section 26.5: Appointment of Sheriff and ministerial officers

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Liberia shall, with the approval of the President, appoint Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriff and such other Ministerial Officers of The Corruption and Related Financial Offenses Court as and when the Clerk is being appointed thereto.

Section 26.6: Exemption of Government agencies and officers from payment of court fees and costs.

No Judicial or Ministerial Officer, or other personnels of the Corruption and Related Financial Offenses Court, Criminal Court “F” shall charge or collect any fees from the government , or any agency thereof, or any officer thereof acting in an official capacity, for any services rendered in any criminal cases, nor for filing , recording or indexing of any official paper or other documents , or for furnishing a transcript, certificate or copy of any paper or other documents to be used for official purposes.

Section 26.7: Seal of Court

The Corruption and Related Financial Offenses Court, Criminal Court “F” and each of the divisions in the Circuit Courts in the counties shall have a distinctive Seal for authentication of its records and other official documents, which shall be judicially noticed at all times.

THIS ACT TAKES IMMEDIATE EFFECT UPON THE PUBLICATION INTO HAND BILL.

ANY LAW TO THE CONTRARY NO WITHSTANDING.