

U.S.C., 1940 ed., Customs Duties, until amended by act October 10, 1940, ch. 843, §1, 54 Stat. 1101, adding a new section to the Judicial Code of 1911, when they were transferred to section 296 of title 28, U.S.C., 1940 ed. They are retained in title 28 by this revision.

In this connection former Congressman Walter Chandler said, "Among the major subjects needing study and revision are special courts, such as the Customs Court, which should be fitted into the judicial system." (See U.S. Law Weekly, Nov. 7, 1939.)

HISTORY OF COURT

The United States Customs Court [now Court of International Trade] as "constituted on June 17, 1930", consisted of nine members as provided by act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, title IV, §518, 42 Stat. 972, which established the Board of General Appraisers, designated the "United States Customs Court" by act May 28, 1926, ch. 411, §1, 44 Stat. 669.

Provisions similar to these were contained in act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, title IV, §518, 42 Stat. 972. That section was superseded by section 518 of the Tariff Act of 1930, and was repealed by section 651 (a)(1) of said 1930 act.

The sentence in the former first paragraph as to sitting in a case previously participated in, is from act Aug. 5, 1909, ch. 6, §28, 36 Stat. 98, which combined and amended Customs Administrative Act June 10, 1890, ch. 407, §12, 26 Stat. 136, and section 31, as added by act May 27, 1908, ch. 205, 35 Stat. 406. Section 12 of the act of 1890 was expressly saved from repeal by act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, title IV, §643, 42 Stat. 989, and prior acts, but its provisions, other than the sentence above mentioned, were omitted from the Code.

Provisions for the review of decisions of Boards of General Appraisers by the Circuit Courts, made by section 15 of the Customs Administrative Act of June 10, 1890, ch. 407, were superseded by provisions for such review by the Court of Customs Appeals created by section 29 added to that act by the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act of Aug. 5, 1909, ch. 6. The provisions of said new section 29 were incorporated in and superseded by chapter 8 of the Judicial Code of March 3, 1911, incorporated into the Code as former chapter 8 of Title 28, Judicial Code and Judiciary.

R.S. §2608 provided for the appointment of four appraisers of merchandise, to be employed in visiting ports of entry under the direction of the Secretary of the Treasury, and to assist in the appraisement of merchandise as might be deemed necessary by the Secretary to protect and insure uniformity in the collection of the revenue from customs. It was repealed by act June 10, 1890, ch. 407, §29, 26 Stat. 141.

R.S. §2609 provided for the appointment of merchant appraisers. R.S. §2610 made every merchant refusing to serve as such appraiser liable to a penalty. Both sections were superseded by the provisions relating to appraisers and appraisements of the Customs Administrative Act of June 10, 1890, ch. 407, 26 Stat. 131, and subsequent acts, and were repealed by act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, title IV, §642, 42 Stat. 989.

R.S. §2945, which contained a provision similar to that of R.S. §2610, was repealed, without mention of section 2610, by said Customs Administrative Act of June 10, 1890, ch. 407, §29, 26 Stat. 141, and was again repealed by act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 356, §642, 42 Stat. 989.

R.S. §2725, which prescribed the compensation of merchant appraisers, and section 2726, which prescribed the salary of the general appraiser at New York, were superseded by the provisions relating to general appraisers and appraisers made by the Customs Administrative Act of June 10, 1890, ch. 407, §§12, 13, 26 Stat. 136, as amended by the Payne-Aldrich Act of Aug. 5, 1909, ch. 6, §28.

R.S. §2727 fixed the salary of the four general appraisers at the sum of \$2,500 a year each, and their actual traveling expenses. It was repealed by act Feb. 27, 1877, ch. 69, 19 Stat. 246.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-317, title V, §501(b)(3), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3856, substituted "Duties of chief judge" for "Duties of chief judge; precedence of judges" in item 253 and added item 258.

1980—Pub. L. 96-417, title V, §501(2), Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1742, substituted "COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE" for "CUSTOMS COURT" in chapter heading.

1970—Pub. L. 91-271, title I, §123(a), June 2, 1970, 84 Stat. 282, substituted "Single-judge trial" for "Divisions; powers and assignments" in item 254 and "Three-judge trials" for "Publication of decisions" in item 255 and added items 256 and 257.

§ 251. Appointment and number of judges; offices

(a) The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, nine judges who shall constitute a court of record to be known as the United States Court of International Trade. Not more than five of such judges shall be from the same political party. The court is a court established under article III of the Constitution of the United States.

(b) The offices of the Court of International Trade shall be located in New York, New York.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 899; July 14, 1956, ch. 589, §1, 70 Stat. 532; Pub. L. 96-417, title I, §101, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1727; Pub. L. 104-317, title V, §501(b)(1), Oct. 19, 1996, 110 Stat. 3856.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 28, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §296 (Mar. 3, 1911, ch. 231, §187(a), as added Oct. 10, 1940, ch. 843, §1, 54 Stat. 1101).

This section contains only a part of section 296 of title 28, U.S.C., 1940 ed. Other provisions of such section are incorporated in sections 252, 253, 254, 455, 1581, 2071, 2639, and 2640 of this title.

The provision that vacancies should be filled by appointment of the President and confirmed by the Senate was omitted as unnecessary in view of the language of the revised section.

Words "a court of record known as" were added. (See Reviser's Note under section 171 of this title.)

The term "chief judge" was substituted for "presiding judge." (See reviser's note under section 136 of this title.)

The provisions of such section 296 of title 28, U.S.C., 1940 ed., relating to assignment and powers of retired judges were omitted as covered by sections 294 and 296 of this title.

Changes in phraseology were made.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsecs. (b), (c). Pub. L. 104-317 redesignated subsec. (c) as (b) and struck out former subsec. (b) which read as follows: "The President shall designate one of the judges of the Court of International Trade who is less than seventy years of age to serve as chief judge. The chief judge shall continue to serve as chief judge until he reaches the age of seventy years and another judge is designated as chief judge by the President. After the designation of another judge to serve as chief judge, the former chief judge may continue to serve as a judge of the court."

1980—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-417 incorporated first par. in provisions designated subsec. (a), redesignated the United States Customs Court as the United States Court of International Trade, and deleted "appointed" before "shall be".

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 96-417 added subsec. (b) and struck out a second paragraph requiring the President

to designate from time to time one of the judges to act as chief judge.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 96-417 designated third par. as subsec. (c) and substituted "Court of International Trade" for "court" and "located in New York, New York" for "located at the port of New York".

1956—Act July 14, 1956, declared the Customs Court to be a court established under article III of the Constitution of the United States.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 96-417, title VII, §701, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1747, as amended by Pub. L. 96-542, §1, Dec. 17, 1980, 94 Stat. 3209, provided that:

"(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the provisions of and amendments made by this Act [see section 1 of Pub. L. 96-417, set out as a Short Title of 1980 Amendment note under section 1 of this title] shall take effect on November 1, 1980 and shall apply with respect to civil actions pending on or commenced on or after such date.

"(b)(1) The following sections of title 28, United States Code, shall apply with respect to civil actions commenced on or after the effective date of this Act [Nov. 1, 1980]:

"(A) Sections 1581(d), 1581(g), 1581(h), 1581(i), and 1583, as amended by section 201 of this Act.

"(B) Sections 2631(d), 2631(g), 2631(h), 2631(i), 2631(j), 2632(a), 2635, 2636, 2637(c), 2639(b), 2640(a)(5), 2640(c), 2640(d), 2643(a), 2643(c)(2), 2643(c)(4), and 2644, as amended by section 301 of this Act.

"(C) Section 1876, as added by section 302(a) of this Act.

"(D) Sections 2601 and 2602, as amended by section 403 of this Act.

"(E) Section 1919, as amended by section 510 of this Act.

"(F) Section 1963A, as added by section 511(a) of this Act.

"(2) Sections 337(c) and 641(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 [19 U.S.C. 1337(c) and 1641(b)], as amended by sections 604 and 611 of this Act, shall apply with respect to civil actions commenced on or after the effective date of this Act.

"(3) Section 284 of the Trade Act of 1974 [19 U.S.C. 2395], as added by section 613 of this Act, shall apply with respect to civil actions commenced on or after the effective date of this Act.

"(c)(1) The following sections of title 28, United States Code, shall apply with respect to civil actions commenced on or after the 90th day after the effective date of this Act [Nov. 1, 1980]:

"(A) Sections 1582, 2639(a)(2), and 2640(a)(6), as amended by sections 201 and 301 of this Act.

"(B) Sections 1352, 1355, and 1356, as amended by sections 506, 507, and 508 of this Act.

"(2) Section 592(e) of the Tariff Act of 1930 [19 U.S.C. 1592(e)], as amended by section 609 of this Act, shall apply with respect to civil actions commenced on or after 90th day after the effective date of this Act."

[Amendment of section 701 of Pub. L. 96-417, set out above, by Pub. L. 96-542 effective as of Nov. 1, 1980, see section 3 of Pub. L. 96-542, set out as a note under section 1516a of Title 19, Customs Duties.]

REFERENCES TO CERTAIN COURTS DEEMED REFERENCES TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Pub. L. 96-417, title VII, §702, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1748, provided that: "Any reference in any statute or regulation of the United States to the United States Customs Court, the U.S. Customs Court, or the Customs Court shall be deemed to be a reference to the United States Court of International Trade."

EFFECT ON CUSTOMS COURT JUDGES

Pub. L. 96-417, title VII, §703, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1748, provided that:

"(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the amendments made by title I of this Act [amending this section and section 293 of this title] shall not affect the status of any individual serving as judge or chief judge of the Customs Court on the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 10, 1980].

"(b) The requirement that a person may not continue to serve as chief judge of the Court of International Trade after having reached the age of seventy years, as set forth in the amendment made by section 101 of this Act [amending this section], shall apply to any individual serving as chief judge on or after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 10, 1980]."

EFFECT ON PENDING CASES

Pub. L. 96-417, title VII, §704, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1748, provided that: "Nothing in this Act [see section 1 of Pub. L. 96-417, set out as a Short Title of 1980 Amendment note under section 1 of this title] shall cause the dismissal of any action commenced prior to the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 10, 1980] under jurisdictional statutes relating to the Customs Court or the Court of Customs and Patent Appeals as in effect immediately prior to such date of enactment [Oct. 10, 1980]."

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Pub. L. 96-417, title VII, §705, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1748, provided that: "Nothing in this Act [see section 1 of Pub. L. 96-417, set out as a Short Title of 1980 Amendment note under section 1 of this title] affects the authority of the Tennessee Valley Authority under the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 [16 U.S.C. 831 et seq.] to represent itself by attorneys of its choosing."

LIMITATION OR ALTERATION OF JURISDICTION

Act July 14, 1956, ch. 589, §4, 70 Stat. 532, provided that: "Nothing contained in this Act [amending this section and sections 292, 293, and 295 of this title] shall be construed in any way to limit or alter the jurisdiction heretofore conferred upon the United States Customs Court [now Court of International Trade] by any provision of law."

CONTINUATION OF ORGANIZATION OF COURT

Act June 25, 1948, ch. 646, §2(b), 62 Stat. 985, provided in part that the provisions of this title as set out in section 1 of act June 25, 1948, with respect to the organization of the court, shall be construed as continuations of existing law, and the tenure of the judges, officers, and employees, in office on Sept. 1, 1948, shall not be affected by its enactment, but each of them shall continue to serve in the same capacity under the appropriate provisions of this title, pursuant to his prior appointment.

§ 252. Tenure and salaries of judges

Judges of the Court of International Trade shall hold office during good behavior. Each shall receive a salary at an annual rate determined under section 225 of the Federal Salary Act of 1967 (2 U.S.C. 351-361), as adjusted by section 461 of this title.

(June 25, 1948, ch. 646, 62 Stat. 899; Mar. 2, 1955, ch. 9, §1(f), 69 Stat. 10; Pub. L. 88-426, title IV, §403(f), Aug. 14, 1964, 78 Stat. 434; Pub. L. 94-82, title II, §205(b)(6), Aug. 9, 1975, 89 Stat. 423; Pub. L. 96-417, title V, §502, Oct. 10, 1980, 94 Stat. 1742.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Based on title 28, U.S.C., 1940 ed., §296 (Mar. 3, 1911, ch. 231, §187(a), as added Oct. 10, 1940, ch. 843, §1, 54 Stat. 1101; July 31, 1946, ch. 704, §1, 60 Stat. 716).