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### **Online Catalog Headings**

#### **Subject Names**

Binns, John, 1772-1860

Brotherly Union Society of the County of Philadelphia

Manning, Thomas S., 1771?-1855

Pennsylvania--Court of Common Pleas (Philadelphia County)

#### **Subject Topics**

Arbitration (Administrative law)

Insolvency

#### **Document Types**

Judicial records

### **Related Collections**

The Historical Society of Pennsylvania holds eighteenth-century court records for the Court of Common Pleas.

### **Biographical/Historical Notes**

The following history of the court system is from the website

<http://www.courts.state.pa.us/index/ujs/courthistory.asp> (accessed April 18, 2007):

Pennsylvania's judiciary began as a disparate collection of courts, some inherited from the reign of the Duke of York and some established by William Penn. They were mostly local, mostly part time, and mostly under control of the governor. All of them were run by non-lawyers. And although the Provincial Appellate Court was established in 1684, no court could be called the court of final appeal. Final appeals had to be taken to England.

Several attempts were made in the early years of the eighteenth century to establish a court of final appeal in Pennsylvania and to further improve and unify the colony's judicial system, but because the crown had final veto power over all colonial legislation, these attempts proved futile. Finally, in 1727 the crown sanctioned a bill that had been passed five years earlier. The Judiciary Act of 1722 was the colony's first judicial bill with far-reaching impact. It established the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, providing for a chief justice and two justices who would sit twice yearly in Philadelphia and ride the circuit at other times; and it created the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia, Bucks and Chester counties.