

# HANCOCK COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

8450 Highway 90

Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

(228) 467-5573

FAX (228) 255-5851

Located at the Hancock County Public Safety Complex

*HOURS: Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

## CASES HEARD BY HANCOCK COUNTY JUSTICE COURT

- Civil actions under \$3,500
- Evictions
- Criminal misdemeanor charges
- Felony preliminaries
- Marriage ceremonies
- Highway patrol, Sheriff Dept, HC Constable, and MDOT citations
- Fish and Wildlife and Department of Marine Resources citations.
- Hancock County Justice Court has jurisdiction over all actions for the recovery of debts or damages as well as personal property, up to \$3,500. Clients file affidavits in Justice Court to recover property to settle debts, or to seek relief from disputes over family matters or issues involving neighbors and others.
- The officers of the court consist of Justice Court Clerk, 4 Deputy Clerks, a Bailiff, 3 Judges and County Prosecutor.
- Civil Process papers, subpoenas are served by Constables who are elected officials.

- A 1984 statute by the Mississippi Legislature requiring a competent number of justice court judges in each county eliminated the Justice of the Peace System and established the present Justice Court System.
- Criminal Court is held on the first three Tuesdays of every month, except for Holidays.
- Civil Court is held every Thursday of the month, except for Holidayss
- **You can check the status of a traffic violation by calling 7-10 days after receiving the citation.**

### **PAYMENTS OPTIONS:**

We accept payments by Cash, Money Order, Cashier's Check or [Credit/Debit Cards](#)

We now have a kiosk in the lobby that accepts [Credit/Debit Cards](#) as well

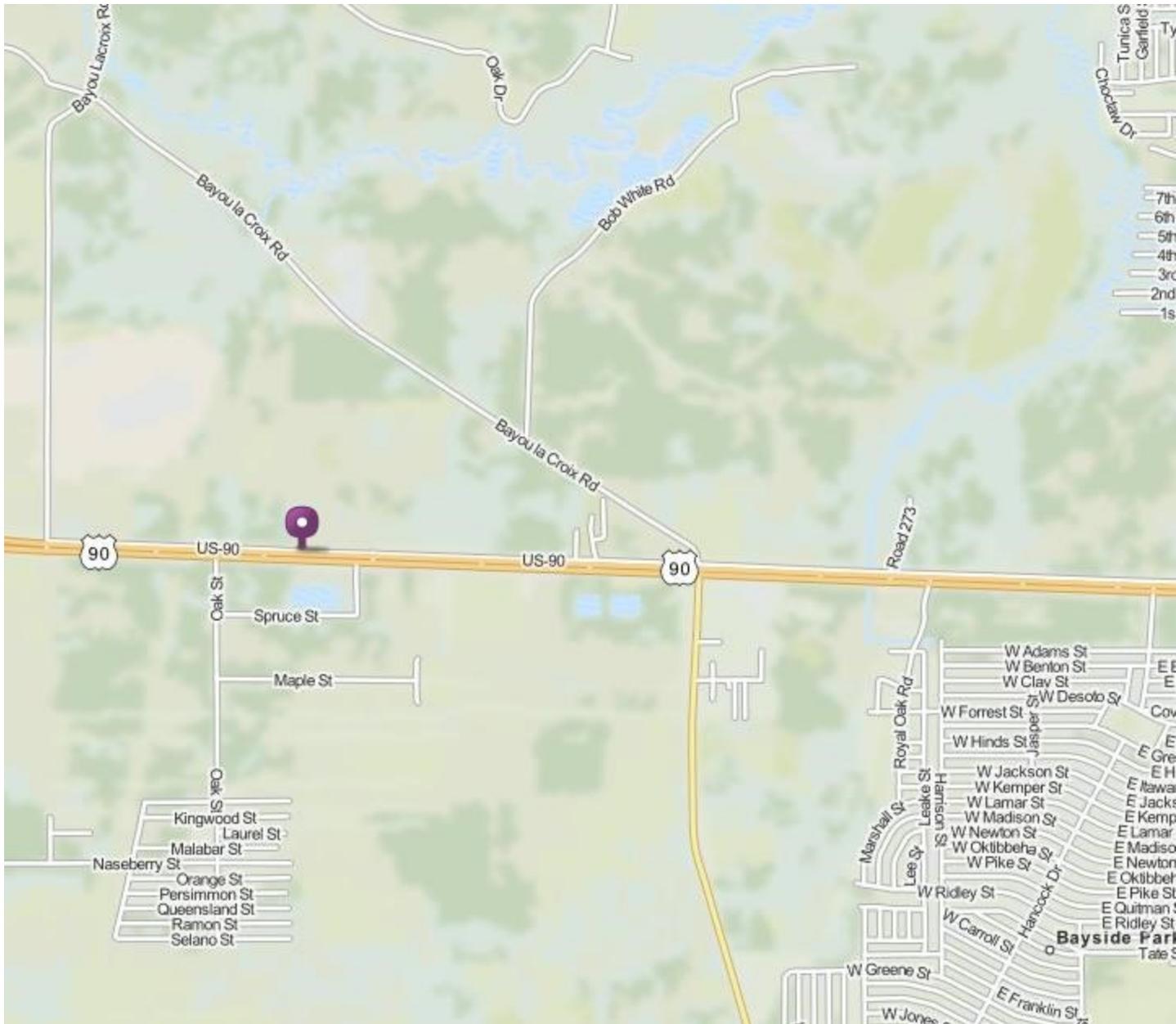
We accept payments over the phone at 1-855-796-5773

Online Payments: [www.hancockjccopay.com](http://www.hancockjccopay.com)

### **DIRECTIONS:**

From I-10 we are approximately 7 miles South from Exit 2.

From Highway 603, we are approximately 5 miles West on Highway 90.



## JUDGES

Honorable Desmond Hoda

Honorable Tommy Carver

Honorable James Lagasse

## **COUNTY PROSECUTOR**

Olen Anderson

## **CLERK OF COURT**

Lisa Guidry

[lisa.guidry@co.hancock.ms.us](mailto:lisa.guidry@co.hancock.ms.us)

## **BACKGROUND**

The number of justice court judges for each county is determined by population within the county. Counties with a population of less than 35,000 there shall be two justice court judges. Counties that have a population between 35,000 and 70,000 shall have three justice court judges. Counties that have a population between 70,000 and 150,000 shall have four justice court judges. Counties with a population exceeding 150,000 shall have 5 justice court judges. The board of supervisors is required to create single member election districts in the county for the election of each justice court judge.

Justice court judges are required to hold regular terms of court at times subject to their discretion. Judges are required to hold at least one session of court per month, but not more than two, at a reasonable time in a courtroom established by the board of supervisors.

The board of supervisors shall appoint a clerk of the justice court system as well as deputy justice court clerks. The justice court clerks and deputy justice court clerks are empowered to file and record actions and pleadings, and acknowledge affidavits for the justice court. They also have the authority to collect filing fees and fines on behalf of the justice court.

Every justice court judge is required to take the oath of office prescribed by Article 6, Section 155 of the Mississippi Constitution. The justice court judge is also required to post a bond in the same manner as other county officers. Justice court judges are also required to give bond payable in a penalty equal to \$10,000.

If the justice court judge resigns from office or the term of office expires he is required to deliver within ten (10) days of vacating the office, the case record with all papers and books of statutes relating to the office of justice court judge, to the clerk of the justice court.