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LEGAL REGULATION OF THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTED SYSTEM OF LAW VERBAL COURTS IN THE LEGISLATION OF RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN XVIII – FIRST HALF OF XIX CENTURIES

When executing justice in imperial Russia of the «prereform» period a legislator considered verbal courts to be important in applying extrajudicial procedures and in reducing terms of proceedings. Legal regulation of creating and developing the system of electoral verbal courts in Russian Empire was aimed at increasing effectiveness of justice, and increasing the role of public management bodies founded by the state; at providing favorable conditions of economic activity and strengthening socio-political stability. First of all, verbal courts were to stimulate a civil flow in cities, to expand trade and economic relations and relations between Russian merchants and lower middle class. The Supreme power sought for unifying legislative and practical inclusion of traditional types of executing justice, pulling together organizing and regulating ac-

tivity of the lowest judicial authorities.

Functions of verbal court for estates involved in public services (inhabitants of mining districts, Cossack armies) were mainly performed by bodies of administrative justice, however the population of Cossack armies which kept traditions of a common law, widely used the right of verbal trials. Special organizations of verbal courts were created for the state and imperial peasants. Consecutive integration was the prior principle of judicial and legal policy concerning native people of peripheral provinces. Variety of local and regional common law rules in verbal courts allowed the state courts to cope with steadily growing amount of office-work, marking the preliminary stage of formation of legal system of imperial Russia, the general norms and standards of legal culture of the population of its peripheral areas.