

Novel 50. (Same as Novel 41.)

This constitution deals with appeals from the five provinces of Caria, Cyprus, the Cyclades islands, Mysia and Scythia, and before whom they should be heard.
(Haec constitutio disponit de appellationibus ex quinque provinciis etc.)

The same emperor (Justinian) to Bonus, glorious Justinian Quaestor of the Army.

We know that we recently enacted a constitution by which we put five provinces, Caria, Cyprus, the islands lying in a circle - the Cyclades - Mysia and Scythia, under the control of Your Glory, adding that appeals from the stated provinces should no longer, in the future, be taken to our glorious prefects, but should be sent to you. But many people from Caria, Rhodes and Cyprus have come before us and complained, stating that they were often compelled to go to Scythia and Mysia, where you live, to carry on an appeal not involving, perhaps, a large sum, and so exposed themselves to considerable danger in crossing the sea and by journeys in lands infested with barbarians. We have, therefore, thought it best to write this law to you, so that suits (appeals) which are taken from Scythia and Mysia, near to you, may be heard by you; in the case of other appeals, however, those from Caria, from the islands mentioned, and from Cyprus (which were formerly tried by our praetorian prefects and later, by our order, assigned to the president of the province) shall, in you are in this imperial city, be brought before you, to be heard by you in conjunction with the glorious quaestor of our palace, in place of the emperor, as provided by the law concerning appeals. **1.** If you are personally in Scythia and Mysia, the appeals shall be taken to your representative in this city, he to hear the cause in conjunction with our glorious quaestor, according to the rule in such cases. We want the people to be exempt from the difficulties above mentioned, and (at the same time) have their hearings before both men, as stated, because we enact this law so that cases may be investigated with greater care and dignity. **2.** If you personally appointed a judge in the aforesaid provinces, your representative in this city shall hear the appeal, as is the custom with the praetorian prefect (in like cases). If it happens that a case is commenced before you while here, but it becomes necessary for you, on account of (distribution of) military supplies, to leave, the

cases shall be heard by your representative in this case, the same as though heard by you. In cases where appeals from said provinces were not originally taken to the glorious prefects, but to some other judge, the provisions heretofore applicable shall remain in force.

Epilogue. Your Glory will cause this our will, declared by this imperial law, to be carried into effect and to be hereafter enforced.

Given August 18, 537.

Note.

This Novel is the same as Novel 41, which is, however, in Greek only and does not appear in the Latin. The former law to which it refers, as having been previously enacted, was probably enacted in 538 A.D., and was directed to Bonus, Quaestor of the Army. It provided for his salary, and that of his counsellor; it gave him an official staff, that is to say, clerks (*scriniarii*), a secretary (*ab actis*), heralds, a sheriff, torch-bearer etc. The quaestor of the army was a paymaster-general, distributing supplies among the soldiers. He was of worshipful rank, and given jurisdiction in certain cases appealed from the five provinces named in this Novel, each of which had a president.