

# Small Claims Court Legal Resources: a Guide for Public Libraries

An *Infopeople*  Webinar

Thursday, April 18, 2013  
12 Noon Pacific

Bill Tanner  
Directing Attorney  
Legal Aid Society of Orange County  
Btanner@LEGAL-AID.com

Janine Liebert  
Librarian, Programs & Partnerships  
LA Law Library  
[jliefert@lalawlibrary.org](mailto:jliefert@lalawlibrary.org)



# Agenda

- Receive a general overview of the Small Claims process including going to court and collecting money
- Become familiar with key terminology and court procedures used in Small Claims
- Tour the California Court's self-help center's sections on small claims

# Agenda

- Have a basic understanding of the online resources to assist parties in completing Small Claims forms
- Learn about the Small Claims advisory services available at local superior courts
- Learn about additional print and online resources for locating small claims information and forms

# Small Claims Overview

- People represent themselves
- Attorneys cannot represent litigants
  - Except on Appeal

# Parties Involved in Small Claims

- Person who sues is the **Plaintiff**
  - Any person, at least 18 years, or business
- Person who is sued is the **Defendant**
  - Any person or entity (business, corporate or government)
  - Exceptions

# Is Small Claims the Best Option

- Does the claim justify the cost?
- Is the person or business able to pay the money owed?
- No more than two cases for over \$2500 filed in the same calendar year
- Must sue in right court and location
  - Called Venue

# Time Limits to File in Small Claims

- **Personal Injury** – Two years from date of injury. If the injury isn't immediately discovered, two years from the date it is discovered.
- **Oral Contract** – Two years from the date the contract was broken
- **Property Damage** – Three years from the date the property was damaged.
- **Written contract** – Four years from the date the contract was broken
- **Malpractice** - One year from the date of malpractice
- **Fraud** – Three years from the date or of the date of discovery
- **Government Entity** - Must file written claim with agency before filing lawsuit in court

# How Much and How Often Can a Person Sue?

- Claim must be for money
  - \$10,000 for “natural persons”
  - \$5,000 for corporations
- Claims for \$2,500 or more limited to two per year
- Claims for less than \$2,500 are unlimited



# Examples of Cases Heard in Small Claims Court

- Landlord/tenant issues
- Car accidents
- Claims against businesses and corporations
- Bad checks
- Breach of contract
- Equitable relief in the form of
  - Rescission
  - Restitution
  - Reformation
  - Specific performance

# How do I Sue in Small Claims Court?

- Plaintiff's Claim (Form SC-100) filed with the court
- Clerk will select hearing date within 20 to 70 days from date claim filed
- Copy of Plaintiff's Claim served to the defendant
  - Called service of process
- Proof of Service (Form SC-104) must be filed with the clerk's office at least 5 days before court date
- Forms available at California Courts

website: [www.courts.ca.gov/1017.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/1017.htm)

# Plaintiff's Claim (Form SC-100)

SC-100		Plaintiff's Claim and ORDER to Go to Small Claims Court	
<b>Notice to the person being sued:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You are the Defendant if your name is listed in ② on page 2 of this form. The person suing you is the Plaintiff, listed in ① on page 2.</li><li>You and the Plaintiff must go to court on the trial date listed below. If you do not go to court, you may lose the case.</li><li>If you lose, the court can order that your wages, money, or property be taken to pay this claim.</li><li>Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case.</li><li>Read this form and all pages attached to understand the claim against you and to protect your rights.</li></ul>		<b>Clerk stamps date here when form is filed.</b> <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; color: red; text-align: center;">To keep other people from seeing what you entered on your form, please press the Clear This Form button at the end of the form when finished.</div>	
<b>Aviso al Demandado:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Usted es el Demandado si su nombre figura en ② de la página 2 de este formulario. La persona que lo demanda es el Demandante, la que figura en ① de la página 2.</li><li>Usted y el Demandante tienen que presentarse en la corte en la fecha del juicio indicada a continuación. Si no se presenta, puede perder el caso.</li><li>Si pierde el caso la corte podría ordenar que le quiten de su sueldo, dinero u otros bienes para pagar este reclamo.</li><li>Lleve testigos, recibos y cualquier otra prueba que necesite para probar su caso.</li><li>Lea este formulario y todas las páginas adjuntas para entender la demanda en su contra y para proteger sus derechos.</li></ul>		Fill in court name and street address: Superior Court of California, County of _____	
<b>Order to Go to Court</b>		Clerk fills in case number and case name: Case Number: _____ Case Name: _____	
The people in ① and ② must go to court: (Clerk fills out section below.)			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Trial Date</div>	→ Date	Time	Department Name and address of court if different from above
	1. _____	_____	_____
	2. _____	_____	_____
	3. _____	_____	_____
Date: _____		Clerk, by _____, Deputy	
<b>Instructions for the person suing:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You are the Plaintiff. The person you are suing is the Defendant.</li><li>Before you fill out this form, read Form SC-100-INFO, <i>Information for the Plaintiff</i>, to know your rights. Get SC-100-INFO at any courthouse or county law library, or go to: <a href="http://www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/forms">www.courts.ca.gov/smallclaims/forms</a>.</li><li>Fill out pages 2 and 3 of this form. Then make copies of all pages of this form. (Make 1 copy for each party named in this case and an extra copy for yourself.) Take or mail the original and these copies to the court clerk's office and pay the filing fee. The clerk will write the date of your trial in the box above.</li><li>You must have someone at least 18—not you or anyone else listed in this case—give each Defendant a court-stamped copy of all 5 pages of this form and any pages this form tells you to attach. There are special rules for "serving," or delivering, this form to public entities, associations, and some businesses. See Forms SC-104, SC-104B, and SC-104C.</li><li>Go to court on your trial date listed above. Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case.</li></ul>			
<small>Judicial Branch of California, www.courts.ca.gov Revised January 1, 2010, Mandatory Form Code of Civil Procedure, §§ 115.112 et seq., 115.220(a), 115.340(g)</small>		<b>Plaintiff's Claim and ORDER to Go to Small Claims Court (Small Claims)</b>	
		<small>SC-100, Page 1 of 5</small>	

# I've Been Sued... Now What?

- Defendant can sue the Plaintiff back
- Called countersuing
- To countersue, defendant files the Defendant's Claim (Form SC-120)
  - Available at California Courts website:  
[www.courts.ca.gov/1017.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/1017.htm)
- May not be for more than \$5,000 or \$10,000 if the defendant is a natural person

# Defendant's Claim (Form SC-120)

**SC-120**

Defendant's Claim and ORDER to Go to Small Claims Court

**Notice to the person being sued:**

- You are being sued by the person you are suing.
- You must go to court on the trial date listed below. If you do not go to court, you may lose the case.
- If you lose, the court can order that your wages, money, or property be taken to pay this claim.
- Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case.
- Read this form and all pages attached, to understand the claim against you and to protect your rights.

**Aviso al demandado:**

- La persona que ha demandado lo está demandando a usted.
- Tiene que presentarse a la corte en la fecha de su juicio indicada a continuación. Si no se presenta, puede perder el caso.
- Si pierde el caso la corte puede ordenar que le quiten de su sueldo, dinero u otros bienes para pagar este reclamo.
- Lleve testigos, recibos y cualquier otra prueba que necesite para probar su caso.
- Lea este formulario y todas las páginas adjuntas, para entender la demanda en su contra y para proteger sus derechos.

Clerk stamps date here when form is filed

**To keep other people from seeing what you entered on your form, please press the Clear This Form button at the end of the form when finished.**

Fill in court name and street address

Superior Court of California, County of \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in case number and case name

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Order to Go to Court**

The people in ① and ② must go to court: *(Clerk fills out section below.)*

Trial Date	Date	Time	Department	Name and address of court if different from above
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk, by \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

**Instructions for the person suing:**

- Before you fill out this form, read Form SC-100-INFO, *Information for the Plaintiff*, to know your rights. Get SC-100-INFO at any courthouse or county law library, or go to: [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/forms)
- Fill out pages 2 and 3 of this form. Then make copies of all pages of this form. (Make 1 copy for each party named in this case and an extra copy for yourself.) Take or mail the original and these copies to the court clerk's office and pay the filing fee. The clerk will write the date of your trial in the box above.
- You must have someone at least 18—not you or anyone else listed in this case—give each Plaintiff a court-stamped copy of all 3 pages of this form and any pages this form tells you to attach. There are special rules for "serving," or delivering, this form to public entities, associations, and some businesses. See Forms SC-104, SC-104B, and SC-104C.
- Go to court on your trial date listed above. Bring witnesses, receipts, and any evidence you need to prove your case.

Judicial Council of California, www.courtinfo.ca.gov  
Revised January 1, 2011, Mandatory Form  
Code of Civil Procedure, § 115.115 et seq.

**Defendant's Claim and ORDER to Go to  
Small Claims Court  
(Small Claims)**

SC-120, Page 1 of 3

# Filing Fees

- A plaintiff (or a countersuing defendant) is charged a filing fee of:

- \$30 for a claim up to \$1,500
- \$50 for a claim between \$1,500-\$5,000
- \$75 for a claim over \$5,000

\*Frequent filers (> 13 within a calendar year) pay \$100 per claim

- Plaintiff may apply for a fee waiver (FW-001)

# Naming an Individual

- Must sue using the defendant's **exact legal name**
- An individual
  - First name, middle initial and last name
  - Example: "Betty M. Hart"
- A husband and wife
  - Listed separately
- Other Plaintiffs or Defendants (Form SC-100A) if case involves three or more Plaintiffs or Defendants

# Naming a Business

- Owner of a sole proprietorship doing business under a fictitious business name:
  - “John P. Jones d.b.a John’s Shoe Store”
- Partners on behalf of a partnership:
  - “Betty M. Hart, individually and as a partner in Hart and Simons, a partnership”
  - “Joan J. Simons, individually and as a partner in Hart and Simons, a partnership”
- Obtaining a fictitious business name statement (d.b.a.)
  - County Clerk’s office
  - City Hall, Business License Division



# Naming a Corporation

- A corporation:
  - “Beacham & Beacham, Inc.”
  - Or “Abacast Corporation d.b.a. Maritime Company”
- More information about a corporation
  - [www.ocsmallclaims.com](http://www.ocsmallclaims.com)
  - Secretary of States’s Website: [www.kepler.sos.ca.gov/list.html](http://www.kepler.sos.ca.gov/list.html)

# Describing Claim for Money Damages

- **Money Judgments** (provide dates and the basis for the amount of the claim)
- “On 11/2/01 Maria Cortez stopped paying on a contract dated 7/9/01. The remaining balance to be paid is \$438.22.”

# Describing Claim for Money Damages

- **Conditional Judgments**

- “Return of 1988 Toyota Corolla Vin# or \$5,000”

- **Rescission**

- “The phone service I ordered with Pacific Bell never worked. I would like to have this contract rescinded.”
- TIP: It is still a good idea to indicate a dollar amount on the claim. The judge may find that a monetary judgment is appropriate.

# Where do I File my Case?

- Sue where:
  - The defendant resides or does business
  - The defendant entered into the contract
  - The contract was to be performed
  - The real property is located
  - The accident/injury occurred
- If there is more than one proper venue, plaintiff may choose the one that is most convenient

# How do I File my Papers with the Court?

- Three ways to file:
  - File in Person
  - Mail
    - Send self-addressed envelope so that the court may send the documents back – include original and a copy
  - Some courts permit online filing of the initial claim
    - [www.icandocs.org](http://www.icandocs.org) (Orange County)
    - [www.lasuperiorcourt.org](http://www.lasuperiorcourt.org) (Los Angeles County)
    - [www.saccourt.ca.gov/efiling/small-claims.aspx](http://www.saccourt.ca.gov/efiling/small-claims.aspx) (Sacramento County)

## How do I Tell the Defendant they are being Sued?

- Called “Service of Process”
- Gives the date, time and place of the hearing
- Who can serve the court papers?
- How are the court papers served?
  - Certified Mail through the clerk
  - Sheriff
  - Personal service
  - Substituted service
- When must the court papers be served?
  - Personal service must be done at least 15 days before the court date. If the defendant lives outside the county, service must be done at least 20 days before the court date.
  - Substituted service adds 10 days prior to court case.

# Who must be served?

- An individual – claim served to that person
- A business – claim served to the owner or a person in charge
- Corporation, Limited Liability Company, Limited Partnership
  - Secretary of State's Office has the name of the party (referred to as the Agent for Service or Process) who can be served
  - Available online at [www.kepler.sos.ca.gov/list.html](http://www.kepler.sos.ca.gov/list.html)

Mailing Address
5457 Florence Ave
Missoula, MT 59802
Agent for Service of Process
Bruce Covington
6125 Pine St.
Bell Gardens, CA 90201

# Can a Claim be Served Outside California?

- A claim must be served in California, except:
  - When an auto accident happened in California, and the registered owner or driver lives out-of-state.
  - A dispute involving real property in California, when the owner of that property lives out of state



# Getting People, Papers and Things to Trial

# Evidence

- Parties have the right to offer evidence through witnesses
  - Voluntarily
  - Serve witness with court order to appear “subpoena” (Form SC-107)
- Special rules apply for “consumer records”
  - Party may subpoena records and papers using Form SC-107)

# What Happens at the Hearing?

- Hearing is informal
- Who will hear the case?
- Parties may settle before the trial
- If the defendant was properly served but fails to appear, the plaintiff may be entitled to a default judgment
- Plaintiff presents case first, then defendant
- Judge will ask questions
- Judge can render decision at the hearing or send it by mail

# I Won my Case! How do I Collect the Money?

- The money the court awards is the judgment
- Judge can render judgment at the hearing or send it by mail
- Party who wins the case and collects the money is called the judgment creditor
- Party who loses the case and owes the money is called the judgment debtor
- Judgment creditor must take steps to collect. The court will not do it.
- Judgment creditor must wait 30 days from the date of mailing on the Notice of Entry of Judgment to begin collecting
- Judge can make the judgment conditional

# Can the Case be Appealed?

- Only a losing defendant (or plaintiff who has lost a countersuit) may appeal
- Must be filed no later than 30 days after the date of mailing on the Notice of Entry of Judgment
- Appeal results in a **new hearing or trial de novo**
- Filing fee is \$75
- Attorneys may represent the parties

# Collection Methods

- Three ways Sheriff can help:
  - Garnish wages
  - Levy bank account
  - Till Tap/Keeper
- Other collection methods
  - Suspend Driver's License
  - Place a lien on property
  - Third party

# California Courts – Online Self-Help Center



The screenshot shows the California Judicial Branch website. At the top, a navigation bar includes links for Courts, Self-Help (circled in red), Forms & Rules, Opinions, Programs, and Policy & Administration. Below this, a welcome message reads: "Welcome to the California Judicial Branch. Committed to providing fair and equal access to justice for all Californians." A mouse cursor is positioned over the "Judicial Branch Home" link. The main content area is divided into "GENERAL PUBLIC" and "LEGAL COMMUNITY" tabs. Under the "LEGAL COMMUNITY" tab, the "Online Self-Help Center" link is circled in red, with a description: "Find information, tools, and resources to help resolve many common legal issues." Below this is a "Jury Service" link with a description: "Learn all about jury basics or find links to your local court. For employers, learn about how you can support jury service." To the right, a "QUICK LINKS" section lists "Amnesty Program for Traffic Tickets", "Court-Related Legislation", and "Invitations to Comment".

Judicial Branch Home

Courts **Self-Help** Forms & Rules Opinions Programs Policy & Administration

Welcome to the California Judicial Branch  
Committed to providing fair and equal access to justice for all Californians.

Tulare County Courthouse

GENERAL PUBLIC LEGAL COMMUNITY

**Online Self-Help Center**  
Find information, tools, and resources to help resolve many common legal issues.

**Jury Service**  
Learn all about jury basics or find links to your local court. For employers, learn about how you can support jury service.

**QUICK LINKS**  
Amnesty Program for Traffic Tickets  
Court-Related Legislation  
Invitations to Comment

# California Courts – Online Self-Help Center

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp.htm>



- For each case type, provides basic information about applicable law
- Outlines steps in court process
- Forms presented within informational context
- Instructions for completing each form



# “Small Claims”

## California Courts Online Self-Help Center

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/1002.htm>

**Judicial Branch Home**

THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

**Courts** **Self-Help** **Forms & Rules** **Opinions** **Programs** **Policy & Administration** **News & Reference**

[Self-Help](#) > [Small Claims](#) > [Forms](#)

**Self-Help**

**Forms**

**Getting Started**

**Small Claims**

- » Basics
- » Suing Someone
- » Being Sued
- » Research Your Case
- » Mediation
- » Going to Court
- » Collect Your Judgment
- » Pay Your Judgment
- » Appeals
- » **Forms**
- » FAQs

**Families & Children**

**Divorce or Separation**

**Abuse & Harassment**

**Eviction & Housing**

You may not need all of these forms. Or you may need more forms. If you are not sure which forms to use, [small claims advisor](#) or a lawyer. Click for [help finding a lawyer](#).


**NOTE:** All California courts use the same basic set of forms. But some courts have local forms, too. To see if any special, local forms, contact your court clerk or check [your court's website](#). The forms may be posted on the site will list the address and phone number of your local courthouse.

To download a form (in PDF format), click on the form number in the table below. If the form you need is fillable to fill and print it out.

+ [expand all](#)

Start Your Case (for Plaintiffs)
Defendant's Claim
Ask to Change the Date of Your Trial
Ask to Change the Name of a Defendant (Before Your Trial)
Ask to Dismiss Your Case

# Small Claims Advisors



## LEGAL RESOLUTIONS™

and the Orange County Small Claims Advisory Program

### ACCESSING JUSTICE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY™

Google™ Custom Search


Search

HomeOur Services▼Small Claims Tools▼Small Claims FAQsLinks▼VideosVolunteerContact

### Our Services

**The O.C. Small Claims Advisory** ←

We provide free assistance to Small Claims litigants in Orange County!



Orange County  
Small Claims Advisory

Advisors are available to explain rules and procedures of the court\*.

Call an advisor today at **714-571-5277**.

OR...

- **Need to file a claim? Wondering where to begin?** Click [here](#).
- **Ready to file?** Click [here](#) to use our free software or even **e-file** online!
- **Want more information?** Attend a [workshop](#), browse our [Small Claims FAQs](#) or view our [video library](#).

#### Important Phone Numbers

##### Small Claims Advisors

Los Angeles
213-974-9759
Orange County
714-571-5277
Riverside
800-244-8898
Sacramento
916-875-7846
San Bernardino
909-382-3650
San Diego
858-634-1777

[http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/small\\_claims/index.shtml](http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/small_claims/index.shtml)



California Department of  
**Consumer Affairs**

DCA Entities | Disclaimer | About Us

Search

CONSUMERS | MEDIA | PUBLICATIONS | ONLINE SERVICES

## Table of Contents

*The Small Claims Court A Guide to Its Practical Use*

- ◆ Acknowledgements
- ◆ Introduction
- ◆ Basic Considerations and Questions
  - ◆ What Is Small Claims Court?
  - ◆ Is Small Claims Court Your Best Option?
  - ◆ Have You Tried to Settle the Dispute Yourself?
  - ◆ Have You Considered Mediation?
  - ◆ Where Can You Obtain More Information and Advice?
  - ◆ Who Can File or Defend a Claim?
  - ◆ Can Someone Else Represent You?
  - ◆ Can Your Spouse Represent You?
- ◆ If You're the Plaintiff ... Filing Your Lawsuit
  - ◆ Have You Asked for the Money or the Property?
  - ◆ How Much Money Does Your Dispute Involve?
  - ◆ Where Do You File Your Case?
  - ◆ How Quickly Must You File Your Case?
  - ◆ What Forms Do You Need to File?
  - ◆ How Do You Name the Defendant?
  - ◆ How Do You Notify the Defendant of Your Claim?
  - ◆ Locating the Other Party

# Online Resources – California State Bar

<http://www.calbar.ca.gov/Public/LegalInformation/SmallClaims.aspx>



The screenshot shows the California State Bar website. The header is dark blue with the text "THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA" and the date "April 12, 2013". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ATTORNEYS, PUBLIC, FUTURE LAWYERS, and ABOUT US. On the left side, there is a vertical menu with links: Attorney Complaints, Consumer Information, Attorney Search, Client Security Fund, FAQ, Forms, Lawyer Referral Services (LRS), Legal Information, Pamphlets, and Tips. The main content area is titled "HOW DO I USE THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT?" and contains a list of 10 questions. To the right of the list is a graphic with the text "HOW DO I USE THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT?" and "THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA".

April 12, 2013

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

HOME ATTORNEYS PUBLIC FUTURE LAWYERS ABOUT US

Home > Public > Pamphlets > Small Claims

## HOW DO I USE THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT?

1. What kinds of disputes can I take to small claims court?
2. Can I file a claim for any amount of money?
3. What can I do if I am owed more than the small claims limit?
4. Should we settle out of court?
5. How does the small claims court work?
6. How do I file my claim?
7. What if I have a claim against the person who is suing me?
8. What should I do before going to court?
9. What should I bring to court?
10. What happens if I do not show up for the hearing?

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA  
HOW DO I USE THE SMALL CLAIMS COURT?



# Law HelpCA.org

[www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org)

LawHelpCA.org

Helping Californians find legal aid & self-help resources

[About Us](#) | [Site Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Survey](#)

Find Legal Information

Find a Lawyer or Court Program

Search

GO

- Click a topic below for legal help and information.
- [Click here](#) for criminal matters.
- [Click here](#) to get California court forms.

## Housing



Homelessness  
Homeownership  
Housing Discrimination  
[More issues](#)

## Families and Kids



Adoption  
Child Support  
Custody/Visitation  
[More issues](#)

## Public Benefits



Child Care / Foster Care  
Disability and Public Benefits  
Emergency Assistance  
[More issues](#)

## Protection from Abuse



Child Abuse/Neglect  
Domestic Violence  
Elder Abuse  
[More issues](#)

## Health



Control Over Health Care Decisions  
Health Insurance  
Medi-Cal  
[More issues](#)

## Consumer & Small Claims



Bankruptcy  
Cars  
Contract and Warranty Problems  
[More issues](#)

## Disability



Assistive Technology  
Disability and Public Benefits  
Education Rights  
[More issues](#)

## Veterans and Military



Appeals  
Citizenship through Military Service  
Disabled Veterans  
[More issues](#)

## Seniors

60+

Elder Abuse  
IHSS (In-Home Supportive Services)  
Medicare  
[More issues](#)

**More Issues:** Work, Individual & Civil Rights, Immigration, Life & Estate Planning, Native American Issues



## - Set your location

Please enter a city, county, or zip code

SET

## More Languages

Spanish / Español  
Chinese / 中文  
Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt  
Korean / 한국어  
[All Languages](#)

## Welcome to the new LawHelpCA.org!

LawHelpCA.org provides Californians with easy online access to basic legal resources and attorney information.

While our look has changed, our mission remains the same. Please email [admin@lawhelpca.org](mailto:admin@lawhelpca.org) if you have any comments or suggestions about the new site.

# LawHelpCA.org – Consumer & Small Claims

[www.lawhelpca.org](http://www.lawhelpca.org)

LawHelp.org

powered by [probono.net](http://probono.net)

## LawHelpCA.org

Helping Californians find legal aid & self-

[About Us](#) | [Site Help](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Survey](#)

Find Legal Information

Find a Lawyer or Court Program

Search

[HOME](#)



SHARE



EMAIL



PRINT



+ Set your



### Consumer & Small Claims

Click on the sub-topic that best matches your legal problem to get legal information and to find help.

- Debt Collection, Garnishment, Repossession
- Small Claims Court
- Taxes
- Bankruptcy
- Cars
- Contract and Warranty Problems
- Credit Reports and Credit Access
- Loans and Installment Purchases
- Other Consumer/Finance
- Public Utilities - Gas, Electricity, Telephone
- Unfair Sales Practices and Consumer Fraud

### More Languages

[Spanish / Español](#)

[Chinese / 中文](#)

[Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt](#)

[Korean / 한국어](#)

[All Languages](#)

### Welcome to the new LawHelpCA.org!

LawHelpCA.org provides easy online access to basic legal information and attorney information.

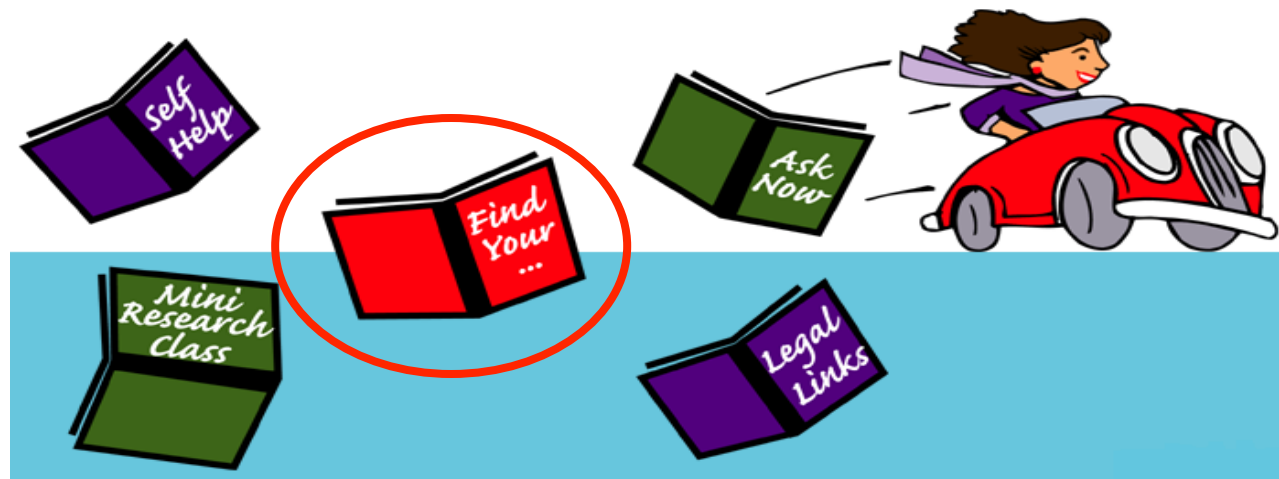
# Locating Law Libraries in CA

## Council of California County Law Librarians

<http://www.publiclawlibrary.org>



The Council of California County Law Librarians welcomes you to  
**Your Public Law Library**



# Nolo Books – Legal Information Reference Center (EBSCO Host)

California consortium hosts full access (remotely) by county

- Example: LA Law Library  
<http://www.lalawlibrary.org/research/onsite/default.aspx>

Login: CA / LA



Browse by Category

Business & Corporations	Family Affairs & Divorce	Immigration & Travel	Money & Financial Planning
Patents, Copyright & Trademarks	Property & Real Estate	Rights & Disputes	Wills & Estate Planning

Legal Forms by U.S. State

Statutes attempt to lay out the ground rules of the "law" and vary from state to state. Click link below to search legal forms by U.S. state.

[Search By State](#)

Browse Popular Legal Forms

- Accident Claims
- Bankruptcy





Searching: [Legal Information Reference Center](#) | [Search Other Databases](#)

[Search](#)

[Clear](#)



[Basic Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Visual Search](#) | [Search History](#)

#### Browse by Category

[Business &  
Corporations](#)

[Family Affairs &  
Divorce](#)

[Immigration & Travel](#)

[Money & Financial  
Planning](#)

[Patents, Copyright &  
Trademarks](#)

[Property & Real  
Estate](#)

[Rights & Disputes](#)

[Wills & Estate  
Planning](#)

## Small Claims Court

[Everybody's Guide to Small Claims Court](#)

[Everybody's Guide to Small Claims Court in California](#)

[Legal Research](#)

[Neighbor Law](#)

[Your Little Legal Companion](#)



where is the love?

# Thank You!



Janine Liebert  
Librarian, Programs & Partnerships  
LA Law Library  
[jliefert@lalawlibrary.org](mailto:jliefert@lalawlibrary.org)



Bill Tanner  
Directing Attorney  
Legal Aid Society of Orange County  
[Btanner@LEGAL-AID.com](mailto:Btanner@LEGAL-AID.com)



Infopeople webinars are supported by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Share & Share-Alike license. Use of this material should credit the author and funding source.