

**Proposal 04-08**  
**(P.R. 0115)**  
**Offered by the Illinois State Bar Association**

**Rule 281. Definition of Small Claim**

For the purpose of the application of Rules 281 through 288, a small claim is a civil action based on either tort or contract for money not in excess of ~~\$5,000~~ \$7,500, exclusive of interest and costs, or for the collection of taxes not in excess of that amount. Every five years, the Supreme Court's Rules Committee shall review the jurisdictional limit of the small claim court and shall increase that court's jurisdictional limit based on the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Statistics, Consumer Price Index.

**Committee Comments**

This rule was based on paragraph A of former rule 9--1 which was in effect from January 1, 1964 to January 1, 1967. The only changes of substance made by the 1967 revision were increasing the upper limit of a small claim from \$200 to \$500, including tax-collection cases in the definition, and adding the phrase "based on either tort or contract." The limit was further increased to \$1,000 by the 1969 amendment, and to \$2,500 by amendment in 1981.

This rule was further amended increasing the limit from \$5,000 to \$7,500 and providing for a five-year review and increase of the jurisdictional limit.