

## First Supplement to Memorandum 2002-61

**Jurisdictional Limits of Small Claims Cases and Limited Civil Cases:  
Comments of Cara Vonk**

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Cara Vonk of the Administrative Office of the Courts ("AOC") has made the following personal observations regarding the draft attached to Memorandum 2002-61:

- (1) The AOC has "always counseled the courts that the 12-case per year limit for the lower filing fee applies to 12 statewide filings." Email from C. Vonk to B. Gaal (Dec. 9, 2002). Ms. Vonk "would urge that the legislation be clarified to reflect this view," as suggested in the draft. *Id.*
- (2) Ms. Vonk sees no need to retain the provision preventing a party from filing more than two small claims cases over \$2,500 (Code Civ. Proc. § 116.231). It is her understanding that "the insurance industry lobbied for this restriction because it wanted the ability to try smaller cases in the limited jurisdiction court." Email from C. Vonk to B. Gaal (Dec. 9, 2002).
- (3) Ms. Vonk "heartily agree[s] with the suggestions for improving the small claims advisor program." *Id.* "Adding a duty to give advice on how to enforce a small claims action certainly won't hurt." *Id.* Ms Vonk's experience, however, is that small claims advisors "do give advice on how to collect a small claims judgment." *Id.*
- (4) Ms. Vonk notes that one of the self-help centers in Ventura County is located in the law library. She proposes that "those law libraries that provide additional support to the self-represented should receive additional fees as an incentive to provide services." *Id.* She explains that some law libraries are non-functioning — "no librarian, locked unless a key is obtained from the clerk, many books missing and not updated, and no computer." *Id.*

Respectfully submitted,

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