

**Iris Y. Martinez**  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
of Cook County



**A Guide  
To The**

**Law  
Division**

The Law Division hears cases claims in excess of \$30,000 where the events surrounding the lawsuit occurred in the Cook County. District One cases are heard pursuant to Circuit Court General Order 1.2(1)(a). Suburban Districts also accept Law Division filings and hear Law Division cases in excess of \$100,000 pursuant to Circuit Court General Order 1.2.1(a) (4) (i).

- **Motor Vehicle:** Damages arising from a vehicle collision.
- **Medical Malpractice:** Damages arising from medical negligence.
- **Asbestos:** Damages arising from asbestos exposure. See asbestos registry.
- **Dram Shop:** Damage claim to recover from a commercial seller of alcoholic beverages arising from injuries caused by intoxication.
- **Product Liability:** Damages arising from the use of an unsafe product.
- **Construction Injuries:** Damages arising from an injury at a construction site, including injuries under the Structural Work Act, Road Construction Injuries Act, and negligence.
- **Railroad/FELA:** Damages arising from job-related injuries to railroad workers.
- **Pediatric Lead Exposure:** Damages to children from exposure to and/or ingestion of lead paint.
- **Intentional Tort:** Damages when a party commits a tort with the intention to harm.
- **Premises Liability:** Damages arising from an unsafe condition on another party's property.
- **Fen-Phen/Redux Litigation:** Damages arising from the use of the diet drug combo Fen-Phen or Redux.
- **Silicone Implant:** Damages arising from the use of silicone implants (ex. breast implants)
- **Petitions To Issue Subpoena:** Petition to take a deposition of a person residing in Cook County in a case pending in another State or Country.
- **Petitions For Discovery:** Petition to take a deposition or to subpoena records before a case is filed.
- **Petitions For Qualified Orders:** Petition to convert a structured settlement to a lump sum payment.
- **Property Damage**
- **Legal Malpractice:** Remedy for harm caused to a client by his/her attorney during the provision of legal service to negligence or breach of contract.
- **Libel/Slander Damages** arising from the use of defamatory information verbally or in writing.
- **Other Personal Injury/Wrongful Death**

### Frequently Asked Questions

***What judge is my case assigned to?***

When a case is filed in the Law Division, it is randomly assigned a Motion Calendar. This Calendar is printed on the Cover Sheet, the Complaint and each Summons. The letter corresponds to a room number and Judge referenced in the Calendar Summary, which is available by: Searching the Clerk of the Circuit Court's Website at [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org); Contacting our Information Desk at (312) 603-5426 or (312) 603-6930; Visiting the Information Desk in Room 801 of the Daley Center; Using the Public Access Terminals located in Room 801 of the Daley Center.

***When is the next court date in my case?***

Does this person or company have any cases filed against them? Has the summons been served in my case and have any appearances been filed? The answers to the preceding questions require a search of the electronic docket. This may be accomplished by utilizing the resources listed above.

***What is the cost of an appearance/complaint/jury demand?***

The various costs associated with the filing of a Law Division case are listed on the Fee List, CCG-0603. The Fee List is available at our Office and on our website.

**The 1st District Law Division hears cases involving the following:**

**Tax & Miscellaneous Remedies**

- Confession Of Judgment: A written agreement in which the defendant in a lawsuit admits liability and accepts the amount of agreed-upon damages they must pay to plaintiff (person suing them), and agrees that the statement may be filed as a court judgment against them if they do not pay or perform as agreed.
- Replevin: Statutory relief for property or money before a suit is filed.
- Tax Appeal: Appeals process for tax claims.
- Condemnation: Process for a government agency to take a parcel of land.
- Detinue: Action to recover personal property wrongfully taken by another.
- Unemployment Compensation: Appeals process for unemployment compensation claims.
- Administrative Review Action: Appeals process for workers' compensation claims.
- Petition to Register Foreign Judgment or Transcript: Registration Process for Judgments or Transcripts entered in counties and states other than Illinois so that monies owed may be collected.

**Commercial Litigation**

- Breach Of Contract: Action filed when parties that have entered into a contract are in conflict.
- Professional Malpractice: Damages arising from the failure of a licensed professional to meet the standards for the profession.
- Fraud: Damages arising from a knowing misrepresentation or concealment/fraudulent act of an individual.
- Consumer Fraud: Damages arising from a knowing misrepresentation or concealment or fraudulent act of a company.
- Breach Of Warranty: Damages arising from the failure of a party under contract to maintain or repair.
- Statutory Action: Damages arising from a claim based on a statute.
- Retaliatory Discharge: Action filed when an employee charges that they were fired as a punishment for lawful activity.

**Law Case File Content**

Case files may contain: cause of action (complaint); defendant's response; motions and briefs filed; testimony (occasional); verdict (if jury trial); and the judge's final order. If the case was appealed, a transcript may be present.

**Records Maintained**

The Law Division maintains all cases for claims of more than \$30,000 involving the case types previously mentioned. The Law Division also maintains the Asbestos Registry. Records maintained dated from 1871-1964 & 1980-present (Since 1964, Law Division cases are retained for 21 years and then destroyed pursuant to statute with a 3% sample of cases retained for archival/historical purposes.) Furthermore, the Law Division maintains plaintiff and defendant Indexes [1871-1964] for the Circuit Court and Superior Court on microfilm; a microfiche Law Division index [1966-present] as well as docket books and clerk's record books, 1871-present, which are stored off site.

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Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County  
Law Division  
Richard J. Daley Center  
50 West Washington St., Room 801 Chicago, IL 60602  
(312) 603-5426; (312) 603-6930; TDD (312) 603-6848  
lawdivservices@cookcountycourt.com

Hours of Operation:  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



[www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org)  **CookCountyClerkofCourt**

*This handout is not a substitute for professional legal advice.*