



SMALL CLAIMS COURT LIMITS

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ISSUE

Describe when Connecticut last increased the limit for small claims court actions and the limits in other states. This report updates OLR Report [2013-R-0070](#).

SUMMARY

Connecticut last increased its limit for small claims actions in 2005, when [PA 05-42](#) increased the limit from \$3,500 to \$5,000. A higher limit applies in cases involving housing security deposits ([CGS § 51-15\(d\)](#)).

We compiled information on small claims courts in other states. These courts use different names in some states. Regardless of name, we looked at the court with the lowest jurisdictional limit in each state. We also focused on the general limit imposed on the court's jurisdiction, although states may have exceptions with higher or lower limits for specific types of claims.

Based on our survey, small claims court limits range from \$2,500 in Kentucky and Rhode Island to \$25,000 in Tennessee. Twenty-nine states have a limit higher than Connecticut's. Connecticut and 13 other states have a \$5,000 limit. Seven states have a limit lower than Connecticut's. Table 1 displays the limits in each state, organized from highest to lowest.



**Table 1: General Small Claims Court Limits in Each State,
From Highest to Lowest**

<i>State(s)</i>	<i>Limit</i>
Tennessee	\$25,000
Delaware, Georgia, Minnesota, and North Dakota	15,000
Pennsylvania and South Dakota	12,000
Alaska, California, Illinois, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin	10,000
Colorado, Oklahoma, and South Carolina	7,500
Massachusetts and Montana	7,000
Alabama, Indiana, Maine, Ohio*, and Wyoming	6,000
Michigan**	5,500
Arkansas, Connecticut , Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Missouri, New York, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and West Virginia	5,000
Kansas	4,000
Nebraska	3,600
Arizona and Mississippi	3,500
New Jersey	3,000
Kentucky and Rhode Island	2,500

Sources: Westlaw; state statutes; state court websites.

* Ohio's limit increased from \$3,000 to \$6,000 as of September 28th, 2016 ([H. 387](#)).

** Michigan's limit is scheduled to increase to \$6,000 in 2018, \$6,500 in 2021, and \$7,000 in 2024 ([Mich. Comp. Laws § 600.8401](#)).

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