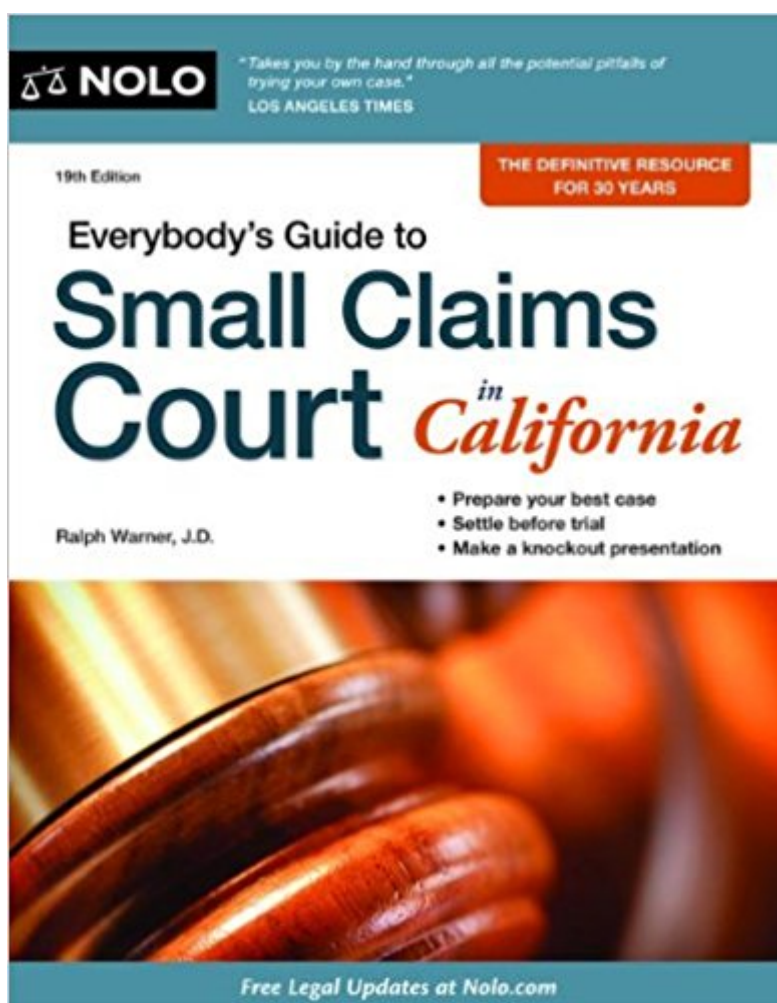


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# Everybody's Guide To Small Claims Court In California (Everybody's Guide To Small Claims Court. California Edition)



## Synopsis

Evaluate your claim, figure out your best course of action and represent yourself in small claims court with this definitive guide. Represent yourself in small claims court and win! Whether you're a plaintiff or a defendant, if you're going to small claims court in California, you need the expertise found in the only guide that provides tips by former judges. *Everybody's Guide to Small Claims Court in California* shows you how to: evaluate whether you have a winning case, mediate a settlement, determine how much to sue for, write your demand letter, file and serve papers, prepare evidence and witnesses for court, plan a winning courtroom strategy, convince the judge that you are right, collect your money when you win. *Everybody's Guide to Small Claims Court in California* gives you step-by-step instructions to bring or defend your case. From preparing evidence and lining up persuasive witnesses, to making a presentation in court and collecting the money you're awarded, this plain English book leads you through the entire process of going to court without a lawyer. Plus, it's the only book around that helps you factor in out-of-court issues, such as personal relationships, to help you determine whether going to court is worth the potential for recovery. This edition is updated with the latest rules and statutes for California's small claims courts, including instructions for accessing local courts and finding out their procedures.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Walks you through the halls of small justice and explains how to file a claim, figure damages and argue your case effectively." *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ["A](#)

Ralph "Jake" Warner, widely recognized as a pioneer of the do-it-yourself law movement, Warner founded Nolo with Ed Sherman in 1972. He began publishing do-it-yourself law books written by him and his colleagues after numerous publishers rejected them. Warner holds a law degree from Boalt Hall School of Law at the University of California at Berkeley and an undergraduate degree from Princeton.

I got into a fender bender few months ago and decided to sue the other driver for negligent driving. I read most of the book before going to the court and was well prepared with pictures, diagrams, measurements, estimates, and opening statement. The defendant suggested mediation. I relented. Then we saw a mediator before the judge even heard my case. The mediator lady was very professional, answered all questions, and simplified the process. Then, we appeared before the judge and he signed on the agreement. I'll be getting my check within a month. Yippee. I recovered most if not all of the amount I spent on this case. Had I rejected mediation, I'm sure I would have won the case hands down but I'm not sure about how much money the judge would have awarded me. This is the third time I have won in traffic related incidents.

By the time I found this book, I had already done a good deal of on-line research on California Small Claims Court processes & procedures. As plaintiff in a case involving real estate disclosures (or lack thereof), I did not expect this book to provide much in the way of detailed real estate law, and it did not. With real estate attorneys charging \$450-\$550 an hour, and some requiring a 4 hour minimum, at least in Northern California, I couldn't justify spending almost as much on legal fees, as the claim itself. The book is a more general introduction to the California Small Claims Court (SCC) process. It has been revised 18 times since first published in 1978, and, in my opinion, needs a complete re-write/overhaul. If you are a party, plaintiff or defendant, in a SCC process, I'd suggest that an online search will provide much more up-to-date information than this book.

You can find all this information online on county and state court website it's really easy

This book gave me a lot of good tips on the entire process. From prepping for court, organizing my evidence and actions/options after the ruling. I used this as a guide and won my case.

Very good book, easy to understand.

Outstanding book, has been of invaluable assistance with preparations of our pending small claims court lawsuit. Thank you!

Very helpful. If only the judges were as informed as this book we would have a winning combination!!!!

Thank you very much

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