

AN ACT  
RELATING TO COURTS; INCREASING THE JURISDICTIONAL AMOUNT FOR  
CIVIL ACTIONS IN METROPOLITAN COURT AND MAGISTRATE COURT;  
AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 34-8A-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1979,  
Chapter 346, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"34-8A-3. METROPOLITAN COURT--JURISDICTION.--

A. In addition to the jurisdiction provided by  
law for magistrate courts, a metropolitan court shall have  
jurisdiction within the county boundaries over all:

(1) offenses and complaints under  
ordinances of the county and of any municipality located  
within the county in which the court is located except  
municipalities with a population of more than two thousand  
five hundred but less than five thousand persons in the 1980  
federal decennial census; provided that the metropolitan  
court shall not have jurisdiction over uncontested municipal  
parking violations;

(2) civil actions in which the debt or sum  
claimed does not exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars  
(\$7,500), exclusive of interest and costs; and

(3) contested violations of parking or  
operation of vehicle regulations promulgated by a board of  
regents of a state educational institution designated in  
Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico  
located within the county in which the court is located.

B. For the purposes of this section, "uncontested  
violation" is a violation for which a citation has been

issued and the person has paid the citation by mail or in person to the appropriate issuing authority; and "contested violation" is a violation for which a citation has been issued and the person had indicated his intent to contest the citation or the person has not paid or answered the citation.

C. The issuing authority shall provide to the metropolitan court on a mutually agreed schedule the unpaid citations and a listing in a manner mutually agreed upon of unpaid citations.

D. The municipality shall retain as reimbursement for its expenses all revenues from uncontested municipal parking violations."

Section 2. Section 35-3-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1968, Chapter 62, Section 48, as amended) is amended to read:

"35-3-3. JURISDICTION--CIVIL ACTIONS.--

A. Magistrates have jurisdiction in civil actions in which the debt or sum claimed does not exceed seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500), exclusive of interest and costs.

B. Except as provided in Subsection C of this section, civil jurisdiction extends to actions in contract, quasi-contract and tort and where expressly conferred by law.

C. A magistrate has no jurisdiction in any civil action:

(1) for malicious prosecution, libel or slander;

(2) against public officers for misconduct in office;

(3) for specific performance of contracts for the sale of real property;

(4) in which the title or boundaries of land may be in dispute or drawn into question;

(5) affecting domestic relations, including divorce, annulment or separation or custody, support, guardianship, adoption or dependency of children;

(6) to grant writs of injunction, habeas corpus or extraordinary writs; or

(7) where jurisdiction is vested exclusively in another court."

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999. \_\_\_\_\_