



S E N A T E

S. No. 1886

PREPARED BY THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS WITH SENATORS LAPID, PACQUIAO, GORDON, ZUBIRI, VILLANUEVA, GATCHALIAN, BINAY AND MARCOS AS AUTHORS

AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES, MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS, AND MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980”, AS AMENDED

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. Section 19 of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129,
2 otherwise known as the “Judiciary Reorganization Act of
3 1980”, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 “Section 19. *Jurisdiction of the Regional*
5 *Trial Courts in Civil Cases.* – Regional Trial

1 Courts shall exercise exclusive original
2 jurisdiction:

3 “xxx

4 “(2) In all civil actions which involve the
5 title to, or possession of, real property, or any
6 interest therein, where the assessed value [~~of~~
7 ~~the property involved~~] exceeds [~~Twenty~~
8 ~~thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or for civil actions~~
9 ~~in Metro Manila, where such value exceeds~~
10 ~~Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)] FOUR
11 HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
12 (P400,000.00), except for forcible entry into and
13 unlawful detainer of lands or buildings,
14 original jurisdiction over which is conferred
15 upon the Metropolitan Trial Courts, and
16 Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal
17 Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial
18 Courts;~~

19 “(3) In all actions in admiralty and
20 maritime jurisdiction where the demand or

1 claims exceeds [~~One hundred thousand pesos~~
2 ~~(P100,000.00) or, in Metro Manila, where such~~
3 ~~demand or claim exceeds Two hundred~~
4 ~~thousand pesos (P200,000.00)] TWO MILLION
5 PESOS (P2,000,000.00);~~

6 “(4) In all matters of probate, both testate
7 and intestate, where the gross value of the
8 estate exceeds [~~One hundred thousand pesos~~
9 ~~(P100,000.00) or, in probate matters in Metro~~
10 ~~Manila where such gross value exceeds Two~~
11 ~~Hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00)] TWO
12 MILLION PESOS (P2,000,000.00);~~

13 “xxx

14 “(8) In all other cases in which the demand,
15 exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind,
16 attorney’s fees, litigation expenses and costs or
17 the value of the property in controversy
18 exceeds [~~One hundred thousand pesos~~
19 ~~(P100,000.00) or, in such other cases in Metro~~
20 ~~Manila, where the demand exclusive of the~~

1 ~~abovementioned items exceeds Two Hundred~~
2 ~~thousand pesos (P200,000.00)] TWO MILLION~~
3 PESOS (P2,000,000.00).”

4 SEC. 2. Section 33 of the same law is hereby amended
5 to read as follows:

6 “Section 33. *Jurisdiction of the*
7 *Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial*
8 *Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and*
9 *Municipal Circuit Trial Courts in Civil Cases. –*
10 Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial
11 Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, and
12 Municipal Circuit Trial Courts shall exercise:

13 (1) Exclusive original jurisdiction over
14 civil actions and probate proceedings, testate
15 and intestate, including the grant of
16 provisional remedies in proper cases, where the
17 value of the personal property, estate, or
18 amount of the demand does not exceed [~~One~~
19 ~~hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), or in~~
20 ~~Metro Manila where such personal property,~~

1 ~~estate, or amount of the demand does not~~
2 ~~exceed Two hundred thousand pesos~~
3 ~~(P200,000.00)] TWO MILLION PESOS~~
4 (P2,000,000.00), exclusive of interest, damages
5 of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation
6 expenses, and costs, the amount of which must
7 be specifically alleged: *Provided*, That interest,
8 damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees,
9 litigation expenses, and costs shall be included
10 in the determination of the filing fees: *Provided*,
11 *further*, That where there are several claims or
12 causes of actions between the same or different
13 parties, embodied in the same complaint, the
14 amount of the demand shall be the totality of
15 the claims in all the causes of action, irrespective
16 of whether the causes of action arose out of the
17 same or different transactions;

18 "xxx

19 "(3) Exclusive original jurisdiction in all
20 civil actions which involve title to, or possession

1 of, real property, or any interest therein where
2 the assessed value of the property or any
3 interest therein does not exceed [~~Twenty~~
4 ~~thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or, in civil actions in~~
5 ~~Metro Manila, where such assessed value does~~
6 ~~not exceed Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00)]
7 FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
8 (P400,000.00) exclusive on interest, damages of
9 whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation
10 expenses and costs: *Provided*, That in cases of
11 land not declared for taxation purposes, the value
12 of such property shall be determined by the
13 assessed value of the adjacent lots.~~

14 “(4) EXCLUSIVE ORIGINAL JURISDICTION
15 IN ADMIRALTY AND MARITIME ACTIONS
16 WHERE THE DEMAND OR CLAIM DOES
17 NOT EXCEED TWO MILLION PESOS
18 (P2,000,000.00).”

19 SEC. 3. *Delegated Authority of the Supreme Court to*
20 *Adjust the Jurisdictional Amounts for First and Second*

1 *Level Courts.* – The Supreme Court, unless otherwise
2 provided by law, without prejudice, however, on the part of
3 the Congress to adjust the amounts when the
4 circumstances so warrant, may adjust the jurisdictional
5 amount for first and second level courts to: (1) reflect the
6 extraordinary supervening inflation or deflation of
7 currency; (2) reflect change in the land valuation; or (3)
8 maintain the proportion of caseload between first and
9 second level courts.

10 SEC. 4. The provisions of this Act shall apply
11 prospectively to all civil cases filed in the second level
12 courts and first level courts from the date of its effectivity
13 thereof.

14 SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this
15 Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect
16 the validity and effectivity of the other provisions thereof.

17 SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, and
18 orders inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be
19 considered amended or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect
2 fifteen (15) days following its publication in the *Official*
3 *Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general
4 circulation.

Approved,