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LA Superior Court Venue Map

Where personal injury cases get filed across Los Angeles County, branch by branch.

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Where your case will be heard depends on where it happened — and on which courthouse takes which case

Los Angeles County is the largest trial court system in the United States. There are roughly three dozen courthouses across the county, and not all of them hear every type of case. Filing in the wrong location can mean weeks of delay and, on rare occasions, dismissal without prejudice for lack of proper venue.

This guide covers the venue rules that apply to personal injury cases in LA County and walks through the courthouses that hear civil and unlimited civil matters most often.

The two venue questions

Every California civil filing answers two questions:

1. **Which county?** Set by California Code of Civil Procedure sections [395](#) and [395.5](#). For personal injury, the rule is "the county where the injury occurred or where any defendant resides at the start of the action."
2. **Which courthouse within the county?** Set by the local court's case-assignment rules. In LA Superior Court these are the Local Rules, currently centered on Local Rule 2.3 and the civil-case differentiation orders that have followed.

For LA County personal injury cases, the practical rule is: **the case is filed at the Spring Street Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles for unlimited civil PI matters**, then assigned by the court to a specific Independent Calendar (IC) judge for trial. That has been the dominant pattern since the post-2013 PI hub consolidation.

The PI hub at Spring Street

Since 2013, LA Superior Court has routed unlimited-civil personal injury cases (those over \$35,000) through a centralized Personal Injury Hub system at the Stanley Mosk and Spring Street courthouses.

- **Stanley Mosk Courthouse** — 111 N. Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- **Spring Street Courthouse** — 312 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Filing happens electronically through the LA Court eFiling system. Initial PI department assignment is typically Department 1, 3, or 4 of the Spring Street Courthouse, with later transfer to an IC judge for trial.

Limited civil (\$35,000 or less)

Cases where damages are likely \$35,000 or less file as "limited civil." These get assigned to one of several courthouses based on geography of the incident or defendant residence — often:

Courthouse	Address	Typical catchment
Stanley Mosk	111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles 90012	Central LA
Chatsworth	9425 Penfield Ave., Chatsworth 91311	Northwest SFV
Van Nuys	6230 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys 91401	South SFV
Burbank	300 E. Olive Ave., Burbank 91502	Burbank, Glendale
Pasadena	300 E. Walnut St., Pasadena 91101	NE LA, San Gabriel
Pomona	400 Civic Center Plaza, Pomona 91766	East SGV
El Monte	11234 E. Valley Blvd., El Monte 91731	West SGV
Norwalk	12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk 90650	Southeast LA

Courthouse	Address	Typical catchment
Long Beach (Governor George Deukmejian)	275 Magnolia Ave., Long Beach 90802	South Bay, Long Beach
Inglewood	1 Regent St., Inglewood 90301	South-central LA
Compton	200 W. Compton Blvd., Compton 90220	Compton, Carson
Torrance	825 Maple Ave., Torrance 90503	South Bay
Santa Monica	1725 Main St., Santa Monica 90401	Westside
Antelope Valley (Michael Antonovich)	42011 4th St. West, Lancaster 93534	Antelope Valley

Confirm catchment on the official [LA Superior Court courthouse locator](#) before filing — assignments shift as the court rebalances dockets.

Unlimited civil personal injury — the practical workflow

For an injury claim valued above \$35,000:

- 1. File at Spring Street.** Upload the complaint via the LA Court eFiling portal.
- 2. Get a PI Department assignment.** Typically Dept 1 (Hon. presiding judge of PI), Dept 3, or Dept 4. The PI departments handle case management, motions, and discovery disputes.
- 3. Trial reassignment.** When the case is set for trial — often 18 to 30 months after filing — it is reassigned to an Independent Calendar judge anywhere in the county for actual trial.

The trial-reassignment step is one of the underappreciated venue facts in LA practice. A case filed and worked up at Spring Street may try in Norwalk, Pomona, or Pasadena. Local procedural quirks of the trial courthouse — preferred motion-in-limine formats, jury-instruction conferences, voir dire procedures — are worth knowing as soon as the assignment lands.

Filing fees (current schedule)

Fees move; verify on the [California courts fee schedule](#) before filing. Typical first-paper filing fees as of 2024-2025:

Action	Fee
Unlimited civil complaint (over \$25,000)	\$435
Limited civil complaint (\$10,001 – \$35,000)	\$370
Limited civil complaint (\$10,000 or less)	\$225
Limited civil (\$1,500 or less)	\$75
Small claims (\$0 – \$1,500)	\$30
Small claims (\$1,501 – \$5,000)	\$50
Small claims (\$5,001 – \$12,500)	\$75
First answer / responsive pleading	Same as filing
Motion fee (most motions)	\$60
Jury fees (deposit)	\$150

Fee waivers are available on application (Form FW-001) for qualifying low-income parties.

Case-specific quirks worth knowing

- **Small claims.** Personal injury can be filed in small claims if the damages are under \$12,500 (individuals) – but recovery is capped, an attorney cannot represent a party at the hearing, and any prior counsel must withdraw before trial. Small claims is rarely the right venue for an injury case with real medical specials.
- **Tort Claims Act cases (against public entities).** A claim must be presented to the entity within six months under [Gov. Code §911.2](#) **before** any lawsuit can be filed. Suit, when filed, follows the same hub rules as any other PI case. Failure to present a timely claim is jurisdictional – no claim presentation, no case.

- **Multi-defendant cases.** Where defendants reside in different counties, CCP §395 gives plaintiff a choice of any defendant's county. Filing in LA when one defendant is local and another is in San Bernardino is generally proper.
- **Forum-selection clauses.** Some commercial premises (gyms, bus operators) embed venue clauses in their waivers. These are sometimes enforceable, sometimes not — a substantive issue worth fighting before responding to a motion to transfer.
- **Federal court.** Diversity-jurisdiction cases (out-of-state defendant, \$75,000+ in controversy) can be removed to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Removal happens within 30 days of service. Federal practice is meaningfully different from state PI practice.

A quick decision flow

1. **Damages over \$35,000?** → Unlimited civil. File at Spring Street; assignment follows.
2. **\$25,001–\$35,000?** → Limited civil. Geography-based assignment.
3. **\$10,001–\$25,000?** → Limited civil; same.
4. **\$10,000 or less?** → Limited civil track or small claims (under \$12,500).
5. **Public entity defendant?** → Tort claim presentation first; then file the same as above.
6. **Out-of-state defendant + over \$75,000?** → State filing is fine; expect possible removal to federal court.

When venue picks the strategy

Venue is not a clerical detail. Different LA courthouses have different jury-pool demographics, different judge tempos, and different settlement conferences. A Long Beach jury and a Pasadena jury value the same back injury differently. An experienced PI firm builds the case file from day one with the likely venue in mind — exhibit choice, expert selection, and even mediation timing all flex around it.

If your incident happened anywhere in LA County and you are sorting out where the case will live, call **(888) 528-8595**. Burg & Brock files daily in every courthouse listed above and our team can tell you, in plain English, what to expect at each one.

Talk to a Burg & Brock attorney — free, confidential, no obligation.

Seven offices across California. We answer the phone twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and our fee is contingent — you owe nothing unless we recover for you.

Call (888) 528-8595

Los Angeles (HQ)

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Los Angeles, CA 90010

Riverside

3403 10th Street, Suite 700
Riverside, CA 92501

Fresno

2350 W. Shaw Avenue, Suite 132
Fresno, CA 93711

Encino

15760 Ventura Blvd, Suite 700
Encino, CA 91436

San Bernardino

473 East Carnegie Drive, Suite 200
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Long Beach

100 Oceangate, Suite 1200
Long Beach, CA 90802

Bakersfield

4900 California Ave, Tower B, 2nd Fl
Bakersfield, CA 93309

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