

During the corresponding period of time, the Los Angeles County Marshal's Office made attempts to levy on debtors, or persons holding debtor's funds as follows:

1963-64	108,201 times.
1964-65	114,972 times.
1965-66	127,762 times.

These figures are maintained by the Marshal's Office, but whether such attempt to reach the debtor's fund were successful is not recorded for percentage determination.

III. RANDOM SAMPLING OF CIVIL FILE

The cases filed in the Los Angeles Municipal Court during the first quarter of 1965 indicated:

	Cases	Percent
Contract action	21,786	80.5
Torts (auto accident)	3,031	11.2
Unlawful detainer	1,266	4.5
Other		3.8
Total cases filed	27,080	100.0

Source: Los Angeles municipal court public records.

A. The random sampling of this quarter¹ indicated that 84% of the cases reviewed were based on contractual obligations; and, of these, 78% were filed by assignees. This would indicate that of 21,786 cases filed, 17,050 were filed by assignees,² or 63% of the "total" actions filed.

B. The random sampling as to the amount involved in the lawsuit indicated that, in those actions based on contract, 36.5% were for less than \$200.00 (Small Claims jurisdictional amount); therefore, 7,915 cases filed in this period were for less than \$200.00 (approximately 30% of the "total" cases filed in the Municipal Court).

IV. DISPOSITION OF CIVIL FILE

The following statistics resulting from this random sampling of this period indicates the following *as applied to the contract actions*:

1. Answers to the complaint were filed in only 8% (or 1,743) of the cases.
2. In 50.5% of the cases (or 11,002), judgment against the defendant was entered by default, entry being made by the Clerk of Court.
3. Of 21% of the writs that indicated a return on the levy of attachment or execution:

- 57% were on wages
- 21% were on bank accounts
- 18% were on personal property

However, it is difficult to reconcile this small number in relation to the total handled by the Marshal's Department.

V. RELEASE OF ATTACHMENT

While a portion of the Code relative to the release of an attachment by the posting of a bond or other security is a possibility, no such release is recently a matter of record. Also, claims for exemptions from attachment are very infrequent.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

A. Eighty to 85% of the actions filed in the Municipal Court are of a contractual nature.

¹ The random sample was taken for the months of February, March, April, 1965; based on a random numbers table. This particular period was taken because the grouping was convenient in location to working space. Two persons worked independently. One examined 215 cases, the other 265 cases; and, when these two studies were compared, the difference in results was minimal. From this, it was concluded that the samplings were representative of the whole, even though less than 2% of cases filed were reviewed. Further, a brief corresponding check of the same period for 1966 indicated that the results were in accord with what might result from a more extended study.

² Assignees for the most part are collection agencies.