SC CIRCULAR NO. 21-99, April 15, 1999

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15 April 1999

TO:

All Judges of the Regional Trial Courts, the Metropolitan Trial Courts, the Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, the Municipal Trial Courts and the Municipal Circuit Trial Courts

SUBJECT

Effectivity of the Provisions of Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7691 Further Increasing the Jurisdictional Amounts Prescribed by Certain Provisions of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, as Amended

The provisions of Section 5 of Republic Act No. 7691 prescribe that fAfter five years (5) from the effectivity of this Act, the jurisdictional imounts mentioned in Sec. 19 (3), [1] (4),[2] and (8),[3] and Sec. 33(1)[4] of Batas Pambansa Big. 129 as amended by this Act, shall be adjusted to Two hundred thousand pesos (£200,000.00). Five (5) years thereafter, such jurisdictional lamounts shall be adjusted further to Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00): Provided, However, That in the case of Metro Manila, the ibovementioned jurisdictional amounts shall be adjusted after five (5) years from the effectivity of this Act to Four hundred thousand pesos (P400,000.00)."

Section 8 of the same law states that "This Act shall take effect fifteen |(15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) lational newspapers of general circulation."

Republic Act No. 7691 was published simultaneously in the 30 March 1994 issues of the Philippine Journal and Malaya. The law took effect on 15 ,pril 1994.

Considering the provisions of Section 31,[5] Chapter 8, Book I of the 1987 L.dministrative Code, Section 5 of R.A. No. 7691 took effect on 20 March [999.

For information and guidance.

(SGD.) ALFREDO L. BENEPAYO

Court Administrator

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[1] 1 Under Section 19 (3) of R.A. No. 7691, the Regional Trial Courts shall exercise original jurisdiction "In all actions in admiralty and maritime jurisdiction where the land or claim exceeds One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) or in Metro Manila, where |h demand or claim exceeds Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00)."

[2] Under Section 19 (4) of R.A. No. 7691, the Regional Trial Courts shall exercise [lusive original jurisdiction "In all matters of probate, both testate and intestate, where the gross, lie of the estate exceeds One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) or, in probate matters in Itro Manila, where such gross value exceeds Two hundred thousand pesos (P 200,000.00)."

[3] Under Section 19 (8) of R.A. No. 7691, the Regional Trial Courts shall exercise |lusive original jurisdiction "In all other cases in which the demand, exclusive of interest, lages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs or the value of the Iperty in controversy exceeds One hundred thousand pesos (P 100,000.00) or, in such other
ss in Metro Manila, where the demand, exclusive of the abovementioned items, exceeds Two [idred thousand pesos (P 200,000.00)."

[4] Under Section 33 (1) of R.A. No. 7691, the Metropolitan Trial Courts, the Municipal Courts in Cities, the Municipal Trial Courts and the Municipal Circuit Trial Courts shall exercise "Exclusive original jurisdiction over civil actions and probate proceedings, testate and intestate including the grant of provisional remedies in proper cases, where the value of the personal property, estate or amount of the demand does not exceed One hundred thousand pesos P100,000.00) or, in Metro Manila where such personal property, estate, or amount of the demand does not exceed Two Hundred thousand pesos (P 200,000.00), exclusive of interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs, the amount of which must be specifically alleged: Provided, That interest, damages of whatever kind, attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and costs shall be included in the determination of the filing fees: Provided, futther, That where there are several claims or causes of action between the same or different parties embodied in the same complaint, the amount of the demand shall be the totality of the clams in all the causes of action, irrespective of whether the causes of action arose out of the same or different transactions.

[5] Section 31 prescribes that "'Year' shall be understood to be twelve calendar months; 'month' of thirty days, unless it refers to a specific calendar month in which case it shall be iputed according to the number of days the specific month contains; 'day' to a day of twenty Ir hours; and 'night' from sunset to sunrise."

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