



RULES OF THE DEBT COURTS OF LIBERIA

APPROVED BY THE SUPREME COURT OF LIBERIA

Rules of the Debt Court

Rule 1. Jurisdiction

The Debt Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction of actions of debt in which the amount claimed is above \$2,000.00 and appellate jurisdiction in all other action of debt in which the amount claimed is \$2,000.00 or less. The Debt Court shall exercise appellate jurisdiction upon appeal taken from the Magistrate or Justice of the Peace Court. Appeal shall be heard de novo in the Debt Court.

Rule 2. Pleadings

There shall be only two pleadings in the Debt Court; complaint and an answer to the complaint and there shall be no other pleading.

Rule 3. Hearing

Cases filed in the Debt Court shall be heard expeditiously without delay and the Court shall sit without jury. Jury trial may be allowed where a request for jury trail is made by a party who, in such cases shall prepay the jury per diem and such other expenses to keep the jury together until they return a Verdict.

Rule 4. Enforcement of Judgment

Upon the entry of money judgment, if no appeal is taken, the Court, on motion of the successful party, shall order execution issued and served on the losing party for the payment of the principal amount with cost. The procedure of enforcement in the Circuit Courts shall obtain in the Debt Court.

Rule 5. Appeal

The announcement and taking of appeal from the judgment of the Debt Court to the Supreme Court shall not operate as a stay to the

enforcement of the judgment amount if the amount sued for is certain and supported by documentary and direct evidence. The payment of cost in case of appeal shall abide by the final determination of the appeal by the Supreme Court, and where the judgment is reversed, the amount paid and received by the judgment-creditors shall be refunded to the judgment-debtors in whose favour the case has been decided by the Supreme Court.

Rule 6. Fine for Contempt

The Debt Court may impose as fine for contempt not to exceed \$100.00 or commit to jail for a period of 30 days in liquidation of the fine.

Rule 7. Report to the Chief Justice

The Debt Court shall submit a quarterly report to the Chief Justice through the Office of the Court Administrator showing the following:

1. The number of cases of the docket during the quarter;
2. The number of cases heard and disposed;
3. The number of cases appealed to the Supreme Court;
4. The number of new cases filed and pleading during the quarter; and
5. Any additional judicial information as to the administration and running of the Court.