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**To:** Supreme Court Advisory Committee

**From:** Rule 171-205 Subcommittee

**Date:** February 26, 2020

**Re:** New Rules for Civil Actions —\$250,000

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Section 22.004 of the Government Code was amended in 2019 and requires the Supreme Court to adopt rules to promote the “prompt, efficient and cost-effective resolution of civil actions filed in county courts at law in which the amount in controversy does not exceed \$250,000.” Our subcommittee was assigned this task. We sent a survey to various judges to serve as resources for the committee. Their answers are attached.

Given the overlap between county and district courts, the SCAC concluded at our June 2019 meeting that the rules should not just apply to county courts but should also apply in district courts.

Our committee has several ideas for preliminary discussion.

1. Create a new Rule 190.2, level 1A for these cases.
2. Put these cases in either level 1 or 2.
3. Put these cases in level 2 but lower the deposition limits for all level 2 cases.

In addition, we urge the adoption of our previous changes to the discovery rules that have been vetted by the SCAC. In particular, we would like to urge the court to adopt the following changes that we believe promote the “prompt, efficient and cost-effective resolution of cases”.

1. Automatic disclosures instead of a request for disclosure.
2. No discovery with the petition.
3. Level 1 changes—increasing the amount to \$100,000.
4. Level 2 changes—rewording the discovery period and adding a limit to the number of Requests For Production to 25
5. Changing the scope of discovery and limitations. (Rules 192.3 and 192.4)