

Small claims are not small.

Court statistics from December 2025 show that of claims defended in the County Court, 67% are allocated to the small claims track. A defended claim that does not exceed £10,000 will normally be allocated to that procedure — and to many people and small businesses, a claim for just under £10,000 is not small at all.

Court fees have risen steeply and will rise again. The median time taken for a small claim to reach trial was 36.1 weeks in October to December 2025. Costs are not normally awarded, so most of these cases are run by the people bringing them. It is therefore even more important that you know what you are doing and how to increase your chances of winning.

What this book covers

- Preparing a case, and whether to bring one at all
- Alternatives to court, and pre-action letters
- Issuing a claim: by post, Money Claims Online or OCMC
- The defendant's reply, and default judgment
- Compulsory mediation and preparing for the hearing
- The hearing itself, costs, and how to appeal
- Enforcing a judgment — and why winning is the easier half

With 33 court forms and sample documents reproduced in full.

Anthony Reeves

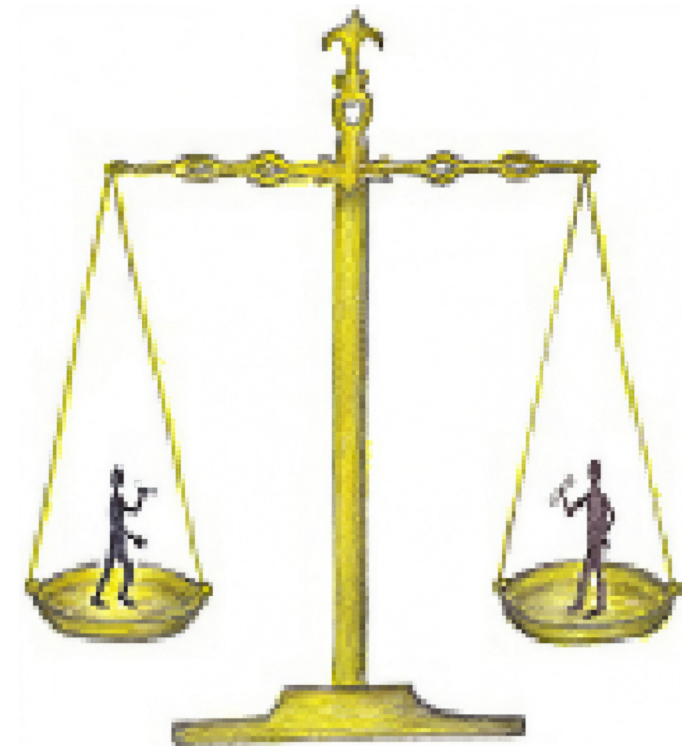
Anthony ("Tony") Reeves is a Consultant Chartered Legal Executive with Civil Litigation Practice Rights. Since becoming a Fellow in 2005 he has acted in contractual disputes, commercial debt recovery and property disputes. First published in 1999, "See you in court" returns in a 2026 edition.

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SEE YOU IN COURT

How to make small claims



2026 Edition

By Anthony Reeves

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