

No. 1-07-0088

also sought unspecified damages for emotional distress. Moreover, defendant by its counterclaim sought \$30,000 for storage fees which, she points out, exceeded the jurisdictional limit for both the small claims court and the municipal division. We disagree.

Jurisdiction is vested in the courts, not the judges. People v. Gray, 363 Ill. App. 3d 897, 901 (2006). A plaintiff invokes the jurisdiction of the court by filing its complaint or petition. Health Cost Controls v. Sevilla, 307 Ill. App. 3d 582, 587 (1999). Here, plaintiff asserted in her complaint that:

“The jurisdiction and venue are proper pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-209, since the transaction and events that gave rise to Plaintiff’s claims took place in the Cook County of Illinois.”

Defendant did not object to jurisdiction. Plaintiff, a resident of Cook County, Illinois, invoked and consented to the trial court’s jurisdiction upon the filing of her complaint. 735 ILCS 5/2-201 (West 2004); 735 ILCS 5/2-209 (West 2004).

General administrative and supervisory authority over all Illinois courts is vested in the supreme court. Blair v. Mackoff, 284 Ill. App. 3d 836, 842 (1996). Supreme Court Rule 21(b) provides that the “chief judge of each circuit may enter general orders in the exercise of his general administrative authority [.]” 134 Ill. 2d R. 21(b). The Cook County Circuit Court has established rules and orders regulating its dockets and the assignment of judges. See 735 ILCS 5/2-104(b); Ill. Sup. Ct. R. 21. The Municipal Division hears civil cases at law which seek compensatory and consequential money damages under \$30,000. General Orders of the Circuit Court of Cook County No. 1.2, Sec. 2.3(b)(1). Plaintiff’s complaint alleged actual damages far