

# CPLR 303: Service of Summons upon Attorney

St. John's Law Review

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/lawreview>

---

### Recommended Citation

St. John's Law Review (1972) "CPLR 303: Service of Summons upon Attorney," *St. John's Law Review*: Vol. 47 : No. 1 , Article 12.  
Available at: <https://scholarship.law.stjohns.edu/lawreview/vol47/iss1/12>

This Recent Development in New York Law is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in St. John's Law Review by an authorized editor of St. John's Law Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [lasalar@stjohns.edu](mailto:lasalar@stjohns.edu).

return the money, an action was commenced. The court found that the complaint sounded in both tort and contract and decided that the operation of a New York stock account constituted the transaction of business in the state. Additionally, under 302(a)(2), the court found that the defendant's intention to defraud the plaintiff by receiving the proceeds from securities which he allegedly knew were wrongfully in his account, subjected him to jurisdiction for commission of a tortious act within the state.<sup>33</sup>

This case further broadens the scope of CPLR 302(a)(2). On its facts, it is clearly correct. Nevertheless the bench and bar alike must remain vigilant to the danger of allowing "a plaintiff . . . , merely by alleging that a contracting party never intended to fulfill his promise, [to] create a tortious action in fraud. . . ." <sup>34</sup> Such simple conversion of contract actions into tort actions must not be allowed.

*CPLR 303: Service of summons upon attorney.*

CPLR 303 provides that commencement of an action in New York by one not subject to personal jurisdiction in the state is an automatic designation of his attorney as his agent for the service of process during the pendency of the action. It applies if the second action could have been asserted as a counterclaim in the first action, had the latter been brought in the supreme court. This section has now been amended<sup>35</sup> to incorporate by reference CPLR 308, thereby making the five methods of service provided in CPLR 308 available when service is to be made upon the attorney. Case law had previously held that only personal delivery to the attorney was sufficient.<sup>36</sup>

*CPLR 308(5): Substituted service permitted in divorce action.*

CPLR 308(5) invests the judiciary with discretionary power to devise modes of serving a natural person when all other statutorily pre-

---

<sup>33</sup> *Id.* at 363, 330 N.Y.S.2d at 150. In *Hertz, Newmark, & Warner v. Fischman*, 53 Misc. 2d 418, 279 N.Y.S.2d 97 (N.Y.C. Civ. Ct. N.Y. County 1967), discussed in *The Quarterly Survey*, 42 St. JOHN'S L. REV. 436, 446 (1968), the court held that it did not have jurisdiction over a New Jersey resident who traded on the New York Stock Exchange through a New Jersey branch of a New York brokerage firm. The defendant telephoned his orders to the plaintiff's New Jersey representative who contacted the plaintiff's main office in New York. The court stated that "where the agent and not a third party sues the principal, the agent's act will confer jurisdiction over the principal only if the agency was an exclusive one." *Id.* at 421, 279 N.Y.S.2d at 100, citing *A. Millner Co. v. Noudar, Ltd.*, 24 App. Div. 2d 326, 266 N.Y.S.2d 289 (1st Dep't 1966), discussed in *The Quarterly Survey*, 41 St. JOHN'S L. REV. 279, 293 (1966).

<sup>34</sup> *Stanat Mfg. Co. v. Imperial Metal Finishing Co.*, 325 F. Supp. 794, 796 (E.D.N.Y. 1971), discussed in *The Quarterly Survey*, 46 St. JOHN'S L. REV. 355, 362 (1971).

<sup>35</sup> L. 1972, ch. 487, at 1000-01, eff. Sept. 1, 1972.

<sup>36</sup> *Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corp. v. Dupper*, 33 App. Div. 2d 682, 305 N.Y.S.2d 918 (1st Dep't 1969), discussed in *The Quarterly Survey*, 44 St. JOHN'S L. REV. 758, 773 (1970).