

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY
(201) 645-3827

CHAMBERS OF
RONALD J. HEDGES
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE

UNITED STATES COURT HOUSE
NEWARK, NJ 07101

TO : George F. Kugler, Donald A. Robinson, Cynthia
M. Jacob, Ronald J. Cracas

FROM : Ronald J. Hedges, U.S.M.J.

DATE : July 13, 1993

RE : Update on Mediation

I want to bring some recent developments to your attention:

1. I assume you have Jack Sabatino's letter of July 1. This sets forth the position of the Attorney General on mediation of prisoner pro se cases. It appears that the Attorney General supports mediation of pro se cases which are ready to go to trial, providing that the prisoner remains in "his" facility during the mediation. If our budget request for the "VideoPhone" is approved perhaps we could do something.

Sabatino wishes to avoid responsibility for any attorneys' fees. I suggest that any pro bono attorney appointed to represent a prisoner during mediation be told that there shall be no application for fees.

Sabatino also makes reference to "other measures" to dispose of prisoner cases. Apart from a bench manual he wants to work with judges and magistrates to coordinate trials of prisoner cases (see page 3 of July 1 letter). I have brought this letter to the attention of all of the magistrates and have asked that they advise their district judges.

2. In my memorandum to you of July 12 I attached correspondence from David Gross on funding for a seminar or seminars. I will try to put something together with the help of Nancy Stanley and report back to you.
3. Chief Judge Gerry has approved a notice intended to remind the Bar of the availability of

mediation. Rosemary Alito is working to have this published in the New Jersey Law Journal.

4. Ed Bergman (one of our mediators) has spoken with New Jersey News about doing a "piece" on mediation. I have also spoken with the executive producer for documentaries at New Jersey News. The "catch" is that the producer wants to tape an actual mediation (which, as you know, should be confidential). Bergman is mediating a case now and will discuss some limited filming with the attorneys involved. If they will not agree to filming I will ask another mediator to approach attorneys before him or her.
5. Ron Cracas is looking into publication of an article on mediation in the newsletter of the New Jersey corporate counsel association.
6. I have written to each district judge and magistrate judge and reminded them of the availability of mediation.

cc: Hon. John F. Gerry, Chief Judge
William T. Walsh, Clerk