

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CHAMBERS OF
FRANKLIN S. VAN ANTWERPEN
JUDGE

THE HOLMES BUILDING
SECOND AND FERRY STREETS
EASTON, PA 18042
(215) 252-6522

January 26, 1993

Robert M. Landis, Chairman
Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group
4000 Bell Atlantic Tower
1717 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Dear Bob,

I enclose herewith an executed copy of the recent
Questionnaire you sent to me.

In general, I feel that the plan is working well --
however -- I think we often have a settlement problem with non-
parties whose consent or agreement is necessary such as insurance
carriers with subrogation positions. I urge a broad statement in
the plan that the court can "compel the presence of anyone whose
consent or agreement may be necessary to settle a case."

The other problem we are all experiencing is the
difficulty in scheduling cases ahead of time given our heavy
criminal caseload and the demands of the Speedy Trial Act. When
criminal defendants plead guilty, we have to make use of the
trial time with back-up civil cases. When the criminal case goes
to trial, the back-up civil cases must be moved to a following
week. I also think the plan had less effect on our court because
we were already doing a good job prior to its adoption.

I commend you and the group for the work you have done.

Very truly yours,


FRANKLIN S. VAN ANTWERPEN

FSV/sab

Enclosure