

Abel

CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM ACT ADVISORY GROUP
FOR
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

August 30, 1991

Letter of Transmittal

Chairman

Robert M. Landis
4000 Bell Atlantic Tower
1717 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 994-2765
FAX 994-2222

I am pleased to transmit to you this Report of the Advisory Group of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, a metropolitan pilot court under the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990. This is the first report in the nation to be filed under the Act.

Members

Alice W. Ballard
Michael M. Baylson
Michael Churchill
James C. Corcoran
Andre L. Dennis
Eve B. Klothen
Seymour Kurland
S. Gerald Litvin
Edward W. Mullinix
Arthur G. Raynes
Richard M. Rosenbleeth
Daniel J. Ryan
John O. J. Shellenberger
J. Clayton Undercoffler, III

The Advisory Group is a prototype of the litigants and the practitioners in this Court, with a balance of the total range of affected interests in the complex of litigation that comes before the Court. Its members were selected, as the Chief Judge declared, because all of them are experienced in their fields and committed to the mission set out in this legislation.

Ex-Officio Members

Honorable Louis C. Bechtle
Honorable Edward N. Cahn
Honorable Robert F. Kelly
Honorable James R. Melinson
Michael E. Kunz, Clerk of Court

We began our undertaking in early March, 1991. At the beginning we decided we could best discharge this responsibility by acting as a committee-of-the-whole meeting in plenary session. We invited each of the judges of the Court, active and senior, to share their perceptions of the present situation, the problems they found and the solutions they would recommend. We solicited, through direct mailings, comments from such diverse groups as prisoners, labor unions, city and state agencies, universities and legal organizations representing specific groups. We conducted public hearings and informal meetings among special task forces of the Advisory Group, reaching out with questionnaires and other informal surveys of the litigants and the lawyers who practice here.

Reporter

A. Leo Levin
3400 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 898-7496

We believe that this intensive effort, distilled through the collective experience that all of us have brought to this mission, represents a fair and objective consensus of the views of this Advisory Group on recommendations that should be offered to our counterparts in the nation, for a model plan to reduce expense and delay in civil litigation in the federal courts.

Assistant to Chairman

Jennifer Clarke
4000 Bell Atlantic Tower
1717 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 994-2105

We invite your comments on our efforts. Please send them to me, as we continue to implement these recommendations in the development of the model plan of this metropolitan pilot court.

If you would like additional copies of the report, please address your request to Michael E. Kunz, Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Landis