

**AO Review of Reports and Plans
For the Judicial Conference Subcommittee on Court Administration**

District: Middle District of North Carolina

Date: January 14, 1994

Upon reviewing the Advisory Group Report and the Expense and Delay Reduction Plan for the Middle District of North Carolina staff has the following observations. The Advisory Group carefully addressed the causes of delay in the district. The court considered each recommendation and included responses to them in the plan.

Comments:

- The plan discontinues the district's mandatory arbitration plan because it was ineffective in reducing cost and delay, and saving court resources.

- The Advisory Group called for greater use of telephone conferences among attorneys. The court reemphasized the importance it places on face to face meetings. The court, however, did act favorably on the Advisory Group's recommendation to use telephone conferencing techniques between attorneys and the court.

Principle reviewer:

Mark D. Shapiro, Administrative Office