

United States District Court

Southern District of Illinois

750 Missouri Avenue

P. O. Box 249

East St. Louis, Illinois 62202

JAMES L. FOREMAN
CHIEF JUDGE

STUART J. O'HARE
CLERK OF COURT

August 21, 1991

Mr. Abel Mattos
Chief, Court Program Branch
Administrative Office of the
United States Courts
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Abel:

We're moving at a very rapid pace now on our Civil Justice Reform Act project.


We have devised a questionnaire which was mailed to 128 "frequent users" and 387 randomly selected attorneys who have pending cases in our District. This questionnaire was mailed on Friday, August 16. As of today, we have a total of 146 responses.

We will be sending out a reminder letter on Tuesday, September 3, 1991. Accompanying the questionnaire was a letter signed by the Chief Judge and personally addressed to each recipient such as the enclosed sample. We accomplished this via various offset procedures because I knew I couldn't get my Chief Judge to sit down and sign 500+ original letters. In any event, it worked out very well for us. I am also enclosing a report that we were asked to prepare by the CJRA committee defining the lengths of trials via individual categories for the reporting period June 30, 1990 through June 30, 1991.

Our next regularly scheduled Advisory Group meeting is September 27th, and I'll make sure that you receive copies of the minutes.

With personal regards,

Sincerely,


Stuart J. O'Hare
Clerk of Court

SJO:sm1

Enclosures

United States District Court

Southern District of Illinois
301 West Main Street
Benton, Illinois 62812

Chambers of
JAMES L. FOREMAN
CHIEF JUDGE

August 15, 1991

Mr. Edward L. Adelman
Dunham, Boman etal
First Illinois Bank Building
Suite 520
East St. Louis, IL 62201

Dear Mr. Adelman:

Last fall, the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives enacted Public Law 101-650 (H.R. 5316) known as the "Judicial Improvements Act of 1990". Section 101 of the Act states that this title may be cited as the "Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990". The legislation was signed by President Bush and became effective December 1, 1990.

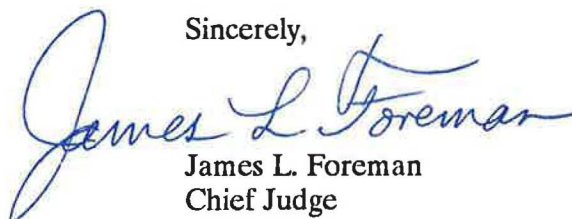
The Act was designed to address the issues of cost and delay reduction in civil litigation in the United States District Courts. The Act further required each Chief United States District Judge to appoint a volunteer Advisory Group. I did so on February 28, 1991.

The Advisory Group is a balance between practicing attorneys and other persons who represent major categories of litigants in our court. The charge of the Advisory Group is to review our case management practices and overall court operations and assist in the development of an expense and delay reduction plan for our district. The Advisory Group held its initial meeting in March 1991 and opted to become an "Early Implementation District", which means our Delay and Cost Reduction Plan must be in final form by December 31, 1991. To accomplish the Advisory Group's mission, we need your input.

Presently, there are over 1,300 practicing attorneys with cases pending in our court. You were randomly selected from this group to participate in a questionnaire developed by members of the Advisory Group. In order for the results to truly represent the thinking of the practicing bar of this court, I request you complete and return the attached questionnaire by Monday, September 9, 1991. The value of your personal response to this survey is critical to the Advisory Group's development of this Court's Delay and Cost Reduction Plan, which will be published and available at all Clerk's Offices. Although the questionnaire in itself is not confidential, the responses are. A return court envelope is enclosed, thereby ensuring you of complete confidentiality.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,



James L. Foreman
Chief Judge

LENGTH OF TRIALS, REPORTING PERIOD 30 JUNE 90 to 30 JUNE 91, CIVIL CASES

PART I

JUDGE	YEAR	NUMBER SEQUENCE	TRIAL TYPE	TRIAL STATUS	SUIT CODE	# OF HOURS	*COURT DAYS	ACTUAL DAYS IN COURT		
FOREMAN	88	4174	1	1	440	5.5	1.10	2	TRIAL TYPE 1 = NON JURY 2 = JURY	
	88	4044	2	1	442	2.0	0.40	2		
	89	4230	2	1	190	26.5	5.30	5		
	89	4027	1	1	330	5.0	1.00	1		
	88	4068	2	1	440	19.0	3.80	4	TRIAL STATUS 1 = COMPLETED 2 = MISTRIAL 3 = HUNG JURY 5 = SETTLED/GUILTY PLEA 8 = SETTLED AFTER JURY SELECTION	
	87	4071	2	1	870	13.5	2.70	3		
	85	4302	2	1	850	71.0	14.20	11		
	TOTALS						142.5	28.50		28
BEATTY	90	5047	1	5	791	8.0	1.60	1	SUMMARY	
	90	3800	1	1	870	7.5	1.50	2		
	90	5034	1	1	791	4.5	0.90	1	JUDGE	
	87	5224	2	1	365	42.5	8.50	6		
	90	3410	2	1	140	12.0	2.40	2		
	90	3300	2	5	350	2.0	0.40	1		
	90	5028	2	2	365	2.0	0.40	1	NUMBER OF HOURS	
	90	5028	2	3	365	81.0	16.20	10		
	89	3016	1	1	550	2.0	0.40	1	COURT DAYS	
	88	3182	1	1	550	4.0	0.80	1		
	89	5251	2	1	350	21.0	4.20	3	ACTUAL DAYS IN COURT	
	89	5244	1	1	190	13.0	2.60	2		
	88	5329	2	1	360	3.0	0.60	1	FOREMAN	
	89	3134	2	1	110	21.0	4.20	4		
	88	3052	1	1	550	2.0	0.40	1	BEATTY	
	88	3118	1	1	550	6.0	1.20	1		
	89	5120	2	1	350	36.5	7.30	6	STIEHL	
	88	3019	1	1	550	1.0	0.20	1		
	86	3717	2	1	442	28.0	5.60	4	TOTALS	
	88	5238	1	1	890	26.0	5.20	4		
	89	5271	1	1	190	12.0	2.40	2	721	
	87	3125	2	1	550	12.0	2.40	2	141.2	
	89	5162	1	1	791	1.5	0.30	1	130	
	89	5092	2	5	350	12.0	2.40	2		
	88	5093	2	5	360	14.0	2.80	2		
	89	5112	2	1	350	14.0	2.80	2		
	89	5117	2	1	440	13.5	2.70	2		
	89	5004	2	1	110	12.0	2.40	2		
88	*5630	1	1	360	49.5	9.90	7			
TOTALS						463.5	92.70	75		
*INCLUDES 5631										
STIEHL	89	3363	1	1	550	2.5	0.50	1		
	87	3310	2	1	442	27.5	5.50	5		
	88	3729	1	1	360	8.5	1.70	2		
	88	4044	2	5	442	9.0	1.80	2		
	87	3642	2	5	360	4.0	0.80	1		
	87	3905	2	1	790	23.0	4.60	5		
	87	3956	2	5	360	2.0	0.40	1		
	87	3907	2	1	360	14.0	2.80	3		
	87	3931	2	5	360	6.5	1.30	2		
	89	3190	1	1	190	15.0	3.00	3		
	87	3686	2	8	360	1.5	0.30	1		
	87	3687	2	5	350	1.5	0.30	1		
	TOTALS						115.0	23.00	27	

A COURT DAY = 5 HOURS

CIVIL TRIALS BASED ON NATURE OF SUIT

PART II

	SUIT	TOTAL NO. OF TRIALS	HOURS	AVERAGE		SUIT	TOTAL NO. OF TRIALS	HOURS	AVERAGE
CONTRACTS	INSURANCE	2	33.0	16.5	LABOR	LABOR			
	NEGO. INSTRUMENT	1	12.0	12.0		LITIGATION	1	23.0	23.0
	OTHER CONTRACT	4	66.5	16.6					
PERSONAL INJURY	FED. EMPLOYERS LIABILITY	1	5.0	5.0		EMPL. RET. INC. SECURITY ACT	3	14.0	4.7
	MOTOR VEHICLE	6	87.0	14.5	FEDERAL TAX	TAXES	2	21.0	10.5
	OTHER PERSONAL INJURY	10	103.0	11.4	OTHER STATS	SECURITIES COMMODITIES EXCHANGE	1	71.0	71.0
	PRODUCT LIABILITY	3	125.5	41.8		OTHER STATUTORY ACTIONS	1	26.0	26.0
CIVIL RIGHTS	OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS	3	38.0	12.7	PRISONER PETITION	OTHER	7	29.5	4.2
	EMPLOYMENT	4	66.5	16.7					

SUMMARY

	TOTAL NO. OF TRIALS	HOURS	AVERAGE ALL
CONTRACTS	7	111.5	15.9
PERSONAL INJURY	20	320.5	16.0
CIVIL RIGHTS	7	104.5	14.9
PRISONER PETITION	7	29.5	4.2
LABOR	4	37.0	9.3
FEDERAL TAX	2	21.0	10.5
OTHER STATUTES	2	97.0	48.5
TOTALS	49	721.0	14.7