

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

District: Central District of California

Date: January 14, 1994

Upon reviewing the Advisory Group Report and the Expense and Delay Reduction Plan for the Central District of California, staff has the following observations. The Advisory Group made a study of local and national court statistics, and surveyed judges, attorneys, and parties. The Court considered the Advisory Group's recommendations, and adopted some of them. The recommendations and the plan do address identified areas of concern relative to cost and delay, although the Court and the Advisory Group sharply disagreed in approach. The Court rejected the Advisory Group's systematic approach to case management, preferring the use of the District's existing comprehensive set of Local Rules applied through the discretion of individual judges on a case by case basis. The Court did directly address many of the guidelines, principles, and techniques of the Act, in addition to the Advisory Group's recommendations.

- This plan is largely responsive to the report of the Advisory Group, and adopts a minority of its recommendations, while echoing many of its concerns.
- The plan specifically provides for early and firm trial dates.
- The plan specifically addresses rules covering presumptive limits on the amount of discovery, rejecting them in favor of an individualized case by case approach.
- The plan adopted the Advisory Group approach to ADR, deciding not to adopt a formal ADR program, but incorporating ADR options in its adoption of the Advisory recommendation of a mandatory settlement conference.
- The Court rejected the Advisory Group's recommendation regarding differential case management (while supporting the concept) as not in conformance with its conception of the delivery of differential case management through the exercise of individual judicial discretion.

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