

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

**District:** District of Nevada

**Date:** December 14, 1993

Upon reviewing the Advisory Group Report and the Expense and Delay Reduction Plan for the District of Nevada, staff has the following observations. The Advisory Group made a study of the docket, including interviews with all judicial officers and the causes of cost and delay in the district. A sample of pending cases was drawn and analyzed. Attorneys, clients, and pro se litigants were surveyed. The Advisory Group took a very narrow approach to potential procedural reforms, and focused primarily on prisoner cases, which constitute almost a third of the civil matters filed in the district. The court carefully considered the group's individual recommendations, and adopted them. The more expansive of these were referred to two special committees created by the court for the purpose of exploring their feasibility. The recommendations and the plan do address the causes of cost and delay deduced by the Advisory Group and presented in its report.

- This plan is responsive to both the causes of cost and delay as deduced by the Advisory Group, and adopts all recommendations of the Advisory Group for immediate implementation or further study.
- The plan does not specifically provide for early and firm trial dates, although this will be a subject for investigation by the special committee appointed by the court to study the potential reform for the stacked/master calendar system.
- The plan does not specifically adopt presumptive limits on the amount of discovery, although disclosure requirements are under consideration by an appointed court committee.
- The plan places a specific certification burden on counsel regarding requests for postponement: counsel must certify that the party has been informed of counsel's request and/or initiation of the motion.
- The court has required that only trial counsel with authority to bind appear at pretrial and settlement conferences.
- The plan adopts the recommendation of the Advisory Group regarding differential case management, deciding not to develop a formal tracking mechanism for cases.