

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

District: Middle District of Florida

Date: January 3, 1994

Upon reviewing the Advisory Group Report and the Expense and Delay Reduction Plan for the Middle District of Florida staff has the following observations. The Advisory Group thoroughly analyzed filing trends within the district. It also surveyed attorneys and held several public hearings. Each recommendation was carefully crafted to meet the needs of the district and was considered by the court. The Advisory Group and the court make several recommendations to Congress, recognizing that litigants, attorneys, and the court are not the only parties responsible for prompt cost effective justice.

Comments:

- It is interesting to note the Advisory Group found the mandatory arbitration program to be a cause of cost and delay at least in some cases.
- The court may want to consider using ICMS to track motions older than 180 days and save the time and expense to attorneys, clerk's staff, and judges involved with the noticing requirement adopted in the plan.
- The court will encourage trial by magistrate judge at the preliminary pretrial conference. It is possible many of the Track 2 cases, seemingly those cases most apt to consider trial by magistrate judge, will not have preliminary pretrial conferences. Perhaps the court could reach litigants in those cases in another way.
- The plan merely fine tunes current case management procedures.

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cost
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Principle reviewer:

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