

MISSION OF THE CIVIL JUSTICE ADVISORY GROUP

The mission of this Group is to develop a Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan for the Southern District of Florida by October 31, 1991. The Plan shall recommend measures, rules, and programs to facilitate fair and efficient adjudication of civil cases, to monitor discovery, to improve litigation management, and to ensure just, speedy and inexpensive resolutions of civil disputes. The Plan shall be based on existing successful practices when possible.

In developing the Plan, the Group shall consider the particular needs and circumstances of the Court, the litigants in this Court, and the litigants' attorneys. To carry out this mission, the following steps are contemplated:

1. Prepare a thorough assessment of the District's civil and the criminal docket, to the extent it impacts upon the civil docket.
2. Identify trends in case filings and the demands placed on the Court's resources.
3. Identify the principal causes of cost and delay in civil litigation.
4. Assess existing rules, measures, programs, and practices in this District which facilitate fair and efficient adjudication of civil cases.
5. Evaluate existing rules, measures, programs and practices in other Districts or other Courts which facilitate fair and efficient adjudication of civil cases.
6. Tailor other rules, measures, programs, or practices to meet the needs of this District.
7. Examine the impact of federal legislation and the practice of federal legislators and staff on the costs and delays of civil litigation.
8. Recommend measures for federal legislators to consider for reducing the costs and delays of civil litigation.

9. Solicit comment on the Plan from the Court, attorneys, litigants, and the public before finalization.
10. Examine the current methodology by which federal judicial vacancies are established and filled. Recommend local and national regulations and laws that can expedite the process.

CHARGE TO OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Committee Members:

Sheldon Snyder, Chairman
Hon. Edward Davis, Vice Chairman
Randall Berg
Richard Capen
Aaron Podhurst
Hon. Charlene Sorrentino

Responsibility of Oversight Committee:

1. Coordinate and assemble data provided by the other three committees throughout the course of phase 1.
2. Prepare an overall analysis of the existing condition of the civil and criminal dockets.
3. Identify and catalog existing case management programs, rules or standing orders in this court and other courts.
4. Assess general trends in this court over the past five years relying on data already prepared by this court and submitted to the Administrative Office of the U.S. courts.
5. Analyze system for filling judicial vacancies.

Interview the following judges:

Hon. James Lawrence King
Hon. James C. Paine
Hon. Lenore C. Nesbitt
Hon. Norman C. Roettger, Jr.

CHARGE TO COMMITTEE A

Members of Committee:

Edward Moss, Chairman
Thomas Scott, Vice Chairman
Robert Coords
James Fox Miller
Ira Kurzban
Anna Barnett

Committee Responsibilities:

1. Study cases terminated within the past 5 years with a life span of greater than 3 years. A sample of 50 cases will be provided.
2. Analyze the docket sheet of each case, diagramming the case on a standardized form to be provided to you.
3. Send out questionnaires to the attorneys and litigants involved in each of your cases, using the standardized form provided to you.
4. Interview the following judges, using the standardized form provided to you:

Hon. James W. Kehoe
Hon. Stanley Marcus
Hon. William J. Zloch

CHARGE TO COMMITTEE B

Members of Committee:

Alan Greer, Chairman
Dean Mary Doyle, Vice Chairman
Henry Latimer
Dexter Lehtinen
Hon. Stanley Marcus
Jack Pastor

Responsibilities of Committee B:

1. Study cases terminated within the last 5 years that have lasted longer than 2 years but less than 3 years. A sample of 50 cases will be provided.
2. Analyze the docket sheet of each case, diagramming the case on a standardized form to be provided to you.
3. Send out questionnaires to the attorneys and litigants involved in each of your cases, using the form provided to you.
4. Interview the following judges, using the standardized form provided to you:

Hon. William M. Hoeveler
Hon. Eugene P. Spellman
Hon. Kenneth L. Ryskamp
5. Identify the policies of the United States Attorney in this District in charging decisions and other policies which affect the number of criminal cases filed.

CHARGE TO COMMITTEE C

Members of Committee:

William Cullom, Chairman
Robert Dube, Vice Chairman
Elizabeth DuFresne
Robert Krawcheck
James J. Hogan
Raul Rodriguez

Responsibilities of Committee C:

1. Study cases terminated within the last 5 years that had a life span of more than one year but less than two years. A sample of 50 cases will be provided.
2. Review the docket sheet of each case and diagram the case on the standardized form to be provided.
3. Send out a questionnaire to the attorneys and litigants involved in each case, using the standardized form provided.
4. Interview the following judges, using the standardized form provided:

Hon. Jose A. Gonzalez, Jr.
Hon. Edward B. Davis
Hon. Frederico A. Moreno