

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

District: Florida Southern

Date: April 9, 1992

Upon reviewing the Advisory Group Report and the Expense and Delay Reduction Plan for the Southern District of Florida staff, has the following observations. The Advisory Group conducted a survey of attorneys, litigants, and docket sheets in 153 closed cases and interviewed the judicial officers in the district to assist in their careful study of the court's docket and developed detailed recommendations to improve the speed and reduce the cost of litigation. The court considered the advisory group's proposed plan and unanimously adopted it.

Comments:

- The Advisory Group set a goal of a 5-10% improvement in case management efficiency after implementation of the plan.
- The plan does not consider contributions for reducing costs from specific types of attorneys.
- The plan calls for a report on a mediation program to be delivered in April 1992. This constitutes the Court's effort to develop an ADR program.
- The plan did not enumerate much detail with regard to case management in complex cases. This was noted by the Circuit Review Committee.
- Neither the plan nor current rules provide for limits on the number or length of depositions. The Review Committee asked the district to reconsider this omission.
- The plan leaves the holding of scheduling conferences to the discretion of the individual judicial officer.
- Time estimates for the length of discovery are to be made on the civil cover sheet.
- All motions pending for over 90 days are automatically set for hearing.

- The advisory group recommended a management consultant's services be made available to any district judge who desires such services. That recommendation was not included in the proposed plan nor adopted by the court.

Principal reviewer: Mark D. Shapiro, Administrative Office