

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
TO THE
JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 23 - 24, 1991
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE U.S. COURTS

by Judge Royce C. Lamberth. As a result of the Team's effort, a project manager has been assigned to develop an action plan for the implementation of the 16 recommendations. The project teams will include AO and court managers.

IV. CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM ACT IMPLEMENTATION

The Judicial Conference assigned primary responsibility for oversight of implementation of the Civil Justice Reform Act of 1990 to its Committee on Court Administration and Case Management, chaired by Chief Judge Robert M. Parker. The Court Administration Division of the Administrative Office provides principal staff support for the committee and its subcommittees.

Since passage of the Act, the Judicial Conference, the Administrative Office of United States Courts and the Federal Judicial Center have devoted considerable staff effort and resources to ensure effective implementation. Implementation is well underway with over 1700 members of advisory groups in 93 districts meeting and working on assessing court dockets, analyzing conditions in the district, and developing recommendations. Judges and advisory group members generally view the plan development process as an opportunity both to improve court operations and to foster communications between courts, the bar, and the public. Reports have been filed under the Act by the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the District of Montana, and the Southern District of California. Several other districts are also circulating drafts for comment.

The Federal Judicial Center conducted a training session on September 16-17, 1991, for the 20 district courts that have expressed an interest in becoming early implementation districts. These courts are: District of Alaska, Eastern District of Arkansas, Northern District of California, Southern District of Florida, District of Idaho, Southern District of Illinois, Southern District of Indiana, District of Kansas, District of Massachusetts, Western District of Michigan, Western District of Missouri, District of Montana, Eastern District of New York, Northern District of Ohio, Eastern District of Virginia, District of the Virgin Islands, Northern District of West Virginia, Southern District of West Virginia, Western District of Wisconsin, and the District of Wyoming. Most of these courts are in the final stages of drafting their reports.

The Court Administration Division, in consultation with the Federal Judicial Center, conducted a review of independent judicial research organizations in order to implement the study of the pilot courts and comparable courts required by the Act. The results of the review were presented to the Executive Committee, and the Committee selected the RAND Corporation.