

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EASTERN DIVISION**

FILED
RICHARD W. MADILL
CLERK OF COURT
2018 SEP 18 PM 4:18

**IN THE MATTER OF ALTERNATIVE
DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROGRAM**

EASTERN DIVISION ORDER
No. COL 18-01
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
EAST. DIV. COLUMBUS

**JUDGES' GENERAL ORDER CONCERNING
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

This Order supersedes the prior General Order on Settlement Week, dated January 8, 2001, and titled Eastern Division Order No. 01-2. In order to enhance the current alternative dispute resolution model, the United States District Judges and Magistrate Judges for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division at Columbus, hereby adopt the following general provisions in civil cases on a year-round basis:

I. Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinator

The United States Magistrate Judge selected as Alternative Dispute Resolution (“ADR”) Coordinator pursuant to Local Rule 16.3(d)(1) shall, in addition to the duties set forth in that Rule, be responsible for developing and ensuring that the procedures for appointing and training neutral mediators are developed and promulgated as required by 28 U.S.C. § 653. The Coordinator shall develop written procedures to be followed by clerical and administrative personnel that will ensure the efficient operation of the ADR program in Columbus.

II. ADR Selection Committee

The most senior active Judge in Columbus, in consultation with the Columbus judicial officers, will appoint seven attorneys to serve on the ADR selection committee. The ADR Selection Committee, which may be comprised of District Judges, Magistrate Judges, and appointed lawyers, will select volunteer mediators to serve on the Mediation Panel and Pro Se Representation Panel. The ADR Selection committee will be responsible for screening, evaluating, and recommending mediators, and shall develop written processes and procedures to

guide fulfillment of these duties.

III. Mediation Program

Court-appointed mediators will serve year-round as volunteer mediators on an as-needed basis. Magistrate Judges will set a default mediation month for each case in the Preliminary Pretrial Order, but the appointed mediator and the parties can conduct the mediation at any time prior to that month. The parties may, but are not required to, request a specific mediator prior to their mediation.

IV. The Mediation Panel

Court-appointed mediators must attend a mandatory four-hour “Mediator Workshop” training, plus one hour of additional training every year. Mediators will serve five-year terms on a *pro bono* basis, subject to reappointment. The ADR Selection committee will be responsible for developing and applying all necessary processes and procedures related to these requirements and service as a mediator.

V. The Pro Se Litigant Representation Panel

The Pro Se Litigant Representation Panel will be comprised of volunteer attorneys or volunteer supervised student practitioners under S.D. Ohio Civ. R. 83.6. These volunteers must meet any requirements set by the ADR Selection Committee to serve on the Panel and must agree to represent *pro se* litigants at mediation on a *pro bono* basis. The representation will be limited to mediation only. Volunteers will serve five-year terms, subject to reappointment. The ADR Selection committee will be responsible for developing and applying all necessary processes and procedures related to these requirements and the volunteer representation.


VI. Settlement Week

Settlement Week as established in Eastern Division Order No. 01-2 shall continue for those cases already set for a scheduled Settlement Week track in 2018. Additional Settlement Weeks shall be held in 2019 if deemed necessary by the ADR Coordinator. In 2019, the ADR Coordinator shall effectuate the phase in of the year-round mediation program established by this Order and


the phase-out of Settlement Week.


IT IS SO ORDERED.


Date: _____


Edmund A. Sargus, Jr., Chief Judge
United States District Court

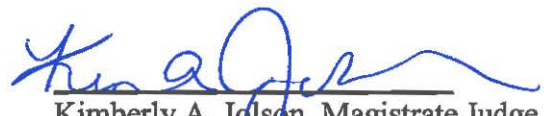

Algenon L. Marbley, Judge
United States District Court


Michael H. Watson, Judge
United States District Court


James L. Graham, Senior Judge
United States District Court


George C. Smith, Senior Judge
United States District Court


Elizabeth P. Deavers, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court


Kimberly A. Jolson, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court



Chelsey M. Vascura, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court



Norah McCann King, Magistrate Judge
United States District Court

