

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION
OF RULE 16 OF THE NEVADA RULES
OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE
GOVERNING SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCES IN CIVIL APPEALS.

ADKT No. 244

FILED

MAR 14 2005

ORDER SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING AND
ALLOWING PUBLIC COMMENT

JAMES M. GILBERT
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
DEPUTY CLERK

On December 27, 1996, this court entered an order adopting NRAP 16 and establishing the Supreme Court Settlement Conference Program. Since its inception, the Settlement Conference Program has grown from an experimental effort into a vital component of this court's civil case processing system. The program has exceeded this court's initial expectations both in terms of the number of cases settled and its effect on the court's overall caseload. More than half of the civil appeals assigned to the program in the last eight years have settled. And the reduction in the Nevada Supreme Court's case inventory from an all time high of 2,500 cases in 1997 to its current level of 1,500 cases is attributable in part to the settlement of significant numbers of civil appeals.

As part of its continuing efforts to improve and streamline appellate case processing, this court commenced a comprehensive review of the Settlement Conference Program last year. As part of this review, Nancy Neal Yeend of the John Paul Jones Group conducted an independent evaluation of the program. Her evaluation focused on the program's effectiveness, the program's policies and procedures, the qualifications of the settlement judges, and the possible addition of cases involving proper person litigants to the program.

Ms. Yeend has now submitted a written report to this court summarizing her evaluation and proffering 32 recommendations designed

to improve the Settlement Conference Program. Based on our initial review of Ms. Yeend's Final Evaluation Summary With Recommendations, this court has determined to solicit public comment about the Settlement Conference Program and to conduct a public hearing about the recommended changes to the program.

Accordingly, the Nevada Supreme Court will hold a public hearing on the Settlement Conference Program and the Final Evaluation Summary and Recommendations. The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Supreme Court of Nevada in Carson City. The bench, bar and the public are invited to submit written comments about the Settlement Conference Program and the proposed changes to the program. An original and 8 copies of written comments must be submitted by April 15, 2005, at 5:00 p.m. to Janette M. Bloom, Clerk of the Supreme Court. Persons interested in participating in the hearing must notify the clerk no later than April 27, 2005.

Hearing date: May 5, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.
Supreme Court of Nevada
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada

Comment deadline: April 15, 2005, at 5:00 p.m.
Supreme Court Clerk's Office
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

A copy of the Final Evaluation Summary With Recommendations may be obtained without charge from the Supreme Court Clerk's Office or on the Internet at: <http://www.nvsupremecourt.us>.

DATED this 11th day of March, 2005.

 , C.J.