

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC06-53

IN RE:        TASK FORCE ON MANAGEMENT OF CASES  
                  INVOLVING COMPLEX LITIGATION

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

The increasing complexity of legal disputes and demands placed upon judicial resources have given rise to operational concerns relating to costs and the efficient and effective processing associated with litigating such disputes, as well as the ability of the state courts to manage this type of litigation. Mass torts, class actions, product liability cases, intellectual property disputes, cases involving advanced scientific evidence, and cases involving multiple parties, among others, are managerially and substantively intricate and may require considerably more resources and effective management techniques than other cases.

According to the *Manual for Complex Litigation*,<sup>1</sup> the fair and efficient resolution of complex litigation requires that the court exercise effective supervision and control, and that judge and counsel collaborate to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the conduct of pre-trial and trial proceedings.

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<sup>1</sup> Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth Edition, The Federal Judicial Center, Washington, D.C., 2004.

Florida may lack sufficient rules of court procedure to effectively guide the judicial management of complex cases within the State Courts System and may unnecessarily expend judicial resources in resolving discovery and other pre-trial matters in all types of cases.

The Task Force on Management of Cases Involving Complex Litigation is hereby established to study and examine the efficient and effective management of complex litigation and the resolution of discovery and other pre-trial matters in litigation. Based on this analysis, the Task Force shall recommend actions needed to effectively and efficiently process complex litigation and preserve judicial resources related to the resolution of discovery and other pre-trial matters in litigation.

The Task Force shall perform the following assignments and submit a final report to the Chief Justice no later than October 31, 2007:

1. Recommend a definition of case types or characteristics that should be considered in determining whether a case is defined for management purposes as “complex litigation.”
2. Review the existing Florida Rules of Court Procedure to determine whether rules, systems, or processes should be created or amended to enhance the effective case management of complex litigation within the State Courts System, including the resolution of discovery and

other pre-trial matters. The review should include consideration of case management elements, procedures, and best practices for complex litigation in other court systems, as well as any existing local procedures in Florida courts. The Task Force is also encouraged to seek advice and information from chief judges and other judicial officers, Bar rules committees, attorneys, and others, as appropriate.

3. If the Task Force determines that amendments to existing rules or the development of new rules of court procedure are necessary, the Task Force is authorized to coordinate with any applicable rules committees. The Task Force is also requested to consult with the Trial Court Budget Commission for coordination on the resource impact any proposal may have and include that information when the Task Force files any specific proposals. The Task Force shall coordinate and liaison with any other Florida groups as may be necessary to effectuate any proposal advanced.

The following individuals are appointed to the Task Force for a term to expire on October 31, 2007:

The Honorable Thomas H. Bateman, III, Chair  
Circuit Judge, Second Judicial Circuit  
Leon County Courthouse, Room 365-C  
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The Honorable James E. C. Perry  
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The Honorable Renee A. Roche  
Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit  
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Orlando, Florida 32801


Mr. Neal Roth  
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The Honorable Harvey Ruvin  
Clerk of Court, Dade County  
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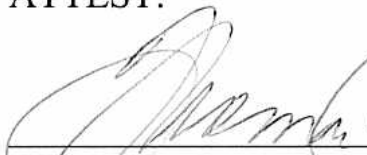
The Honorable Peter Webster  
Appellate Court Judge, First District Court of Appeal  
301 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1850

Justice Barbara J. Pariente will serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to the Task Force. Staff support shall be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on September 19, 2006.

  
Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis

ATTEST:

  
Thomas D. Hall, Clerk

