



Supreme Court of Florida

500 South Duval Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1925

BARBARA J. PARIENTE
CHIEF JUSTICE
CHARLES T. WELLS
HARRY LEE ANSTEAD
R. FRED LEWIS
PEGGY A. QUINCE
RAOUL G. CANTERO, III
KENNETH B. BELL
JUSTICES

THOMAS D. HALL
CLERK OF COURT

WILSON E. BARNES
MARSHAL

October 12, 2004

The Honorable James R. Wolf
Chief Judge
First District Court of Appeal
301 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1850

Dear Chief Judge Wolf:

Recently, the Fifth District Court of Appeal announced that its pilot mediation program was deemed a success and it has now been adopted as a permanent program. This program differs from some of the earlier appellate mediation efforts in that it is based on a private mediator model as opposed to retaining staff mediators. Given the positive experience in the Fifth District, I believe it would be beneficial for all of the district courts to consider implementing a similar program.

The Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy has a subcommittee which has been developing procedural rules, qualifications and training recommendations for consideration by the Supreme Court. Judges from the Fourth and Fifth Districts are already members of this subcommittee. I would appreciate it if you would consider appointing a liaison from your court to join the Appellate Mediation Subcommittee. Please inform Sharon Press, Director of the Dispute Resolution Center, who staffs the ADR Rules and Policy Committee, when you select your liaison. You may contact her via e-mail at pressS@flcourts.org. Ms. Press would also be able to provide you

The Honorable James R. Wolf
October 12, 2004
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with additional information about the Fifth District's program and technical assistance in establishing an appellate mediation program, if you are interested in exploring that possibility.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Yours very truly,


Barbara J. Pariente

BJP/sp



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October 12, 2004

The Honorable Chris W. Altenbernd
Chief Judge
Second District Court of Appeal
1700 N Tampa Street, Suite 300
Tampa, FL 33602

Dear Chief Judge Altenbernd:

Recently, the Fifth District Court of Appeal announced that its pilot mediation program was deemed a success and has now been adopted as a permanent program. This program differs from some of the earlier appellate mediation efforts in that it is based on a private mediator model as opposed to retaining staff mediators. Given the positive experience in the Fifth District, I believe it would be beneficial for all of the district courts to consider implementing a similar program.

The Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy has a subcommittee which has been developing procedural rules, qualifications and training recommendations for consideration by the Supreme Court. Judges from the Fourth and Fifth Districts are already members of this subcommittee. I would appreciate it if you would consider appointing a liaison from your court to join the Appellate Mediation Subcommittee. Please inform Sharon Press, Director of the Dispute Resolution Center, who staffs the ADR Rules and Policy Committee, when you select your liaison. You may contact her via e-mail at pressS@flcourts.org. Ms. Press would also be able to provide you

The Honorable Chris W. Altenbernd
October 12, 2004
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with additional information about the Fifth District's program and technical assistance in establishing an appellate mediation program, if you are interested in exploring that possibility.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Yours very truly,


Barbara J. Parente

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WILSON E. BARNES
MARSHAL

October 12, 2004

The Honorable Gary M. Farmer
Chief Judge
Fourth District Court of Appeal
P.O. Box 3315
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-3315

Dear Chief Judge Farmer:

Recently, the Fifth District Court of Appeal announced that its pilot mediation program was deemed a success and it has now been adopted as a permanent program. This program differs from some of the earlier appellate mediation efforts in that it is based on a private mediator model as opposed to retaining staff mediators. Given this positive experience in the Fifth District, I believe it would be beneficial for all of the district courts to consider implementing a similar program.

The Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy has a subcommittee which has been developing procedural rules, qualifications and training recommendations for consideration by the Supreme Court. Judge Matthew Stevenson from the Fourth District and Judge William Palmer from the Fifth District are already members of this subcommittee. I have requested that the other Chief Judges consider appointing a liaison from their courts to join the Appellate Mediation Subcommittee.

The Honorable Gary M. Farmer
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Please contact Sharon Press, Director of our Dispute Resolution Center, if you are interested in obtaining additional information about the Fifth District's program or technical assistance in establishing an appellate mediation program.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Yours very truly,


Barbara J. Pariente

BJP/sp

cc: The Honorable Matthew Stevenson



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WILSON E. BARNES
MARSHAL

October 12, 2004

The Honorable Alan R. Schwartz
Chief Judge
Third District Court of Appeal
2001 Southwest 117th Avenue
Miami, FL 33175-1716

Dear Chief Judge Schwartz:

Recently, the Fifth District Court of Appeal announced that its pilot mediation program was deemed a success and has now been adopted as a permanent program. This program differs from some of the earlier appellate mediation efforts in that it is based on a private mediator model as opposed to retaining staff mediators. Given the positive experience in the Fifth District, I believe it would be beneficial for all of the district courts to consider implementing a similar program.

The Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy has a subcommittee which has been developing procedural rules, qualifications and training recommendations for consideration by the Supreme Court. Judges from the Fourth and Fifth Districts are already members of this subcommittee. I would appreciate it if you would consider appointing a liaison from your court to join the Appellate Mediation Subcommittee. Please inform Sharon Press, Director of the Dispute Resolution Center, who staffs the ADR Rules and Policy Committee when you select your liaison. You may contact her via e-mail at pressS@flcourts.org. Ms. Press would also be able to provide you

The Honorable Alan R. Schwartz
October 12, 2004
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with additional information about the Fifth District's program and technical assistance in establishing an appellate mediation program, if you are interested in exploring that possibility.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this request.

Yours very truly,


Barbara J. Pariente

BJP/sp



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October 12, 2004

The Honorable Thomas D. Sawaya
Chief Judge
Fifth District Court of Appeal
300 South Beach Street
Daytona Beach, FL 32114


Dear Chief Judge Sawaya:

I read with great interest your announcement that your pilot mediation program was deemed a success and has now been adopted as a permanent program. Given the positive experience in the Fifth District, I am encouraging all of the district courts to consider implementing similar programs.

I have also requested that each Chief Appellate Judge appoint a liaison to the Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy's Appellate Mediation Subcommittee which has been developing procedural rules, qualifications and training recommendations for consideration by the Supreme Court. Judge William Palmer from the Fifth District already serves on this subcommittee so you need not appoint another liaison.

I wish you continued success with your program.

Yours very truly,


Barbara J. Pariente

BJP/sp
cc: The Honorable William Palmer