

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC03-32

IN RE: COMMITTEE ON ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION
RULES AND POLICY

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Chapter 44, Florida Statutes, requires the Supreme Court of Florida to establish rules of practice and procedure for court-ordered mediation, court-ordered non-binding arbitration, voluntary trial resolution, and court-connected voluntary binding arbitration. To assist the Supreme Court in implementing this law, a standing Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Rules was established in 1989.

Section 44.106, Florida Statutes, requires the Supreme Court of Florida to establish standards for training for court-appointed mediators and arbitrators. To assist the Court in implementing this law, a standing Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Training was established in 1988.

In 2001, the Supreme Court Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Rules and the Supreme Court Committee on Mediation and Arbitration Training were superseded by the Supreme Court Standing Committee on Alternative Dispute

Resolution Rules and the Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy, respectively.

The judicial branch's experience has shown that alternative dispute resolution policy impacts on the rules, and alternative dispute resolution rules likewise impact on policy. Consolidation of those two functions under one advisory body will result in the development of more efficient, effective, consistent, and expedited recommendations to the Supreme Court regarding mediation, arbitration, and other forms of alternative dispute resolution.

Accordingly, the Supreme Court Standing Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and the Supreme Court Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Policy are hereby merged and reconstituted as the Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution Rules and Policy.

During the next two years, the Committee is directed to:

1. Monitor court rules governing alternative dispute resolution procedures and recommend to the Court necessary amendments.
2. Monitor legislation and trends in the field and when necessary and appropriate recommend rules regarding the implementation of alternative dispute resolution procedures.

3. Recommend for consideration changes in administrative policies, statutes, and training standards that would enhance the goals of alternative dispute resolution.
4. Assess and develop, if appropriate, recommendations for rules, procedures, and model practices to govern the appropriate use of mediation in criminal and juvenile delinquency.
5. Assess how courts are handling mediation cases, including where domestic violence is present, and develop recommendations for model practices for handling cases, as appropriate.
6. Review requests from individuals seeking waivers of the qualifications required for arbitrators and mediators or reviews of denial of certification and make recommendations for or against certification to the Supreme Court.
7. Monitor the continuing education, mentorship, and basic mediation and arbitration training requirements and recommend revisions as appropriate.
8. Coordinate with other court committees to further the alternative dispute resolution goals of the Supreme Court.

9. Make such other recommendations that would improve the use of mediation, arbitration, and other alternatives to supplement the judicial process.
10. Perform such other assignments related to alternative dispute resolution as may be directed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme court.

In order to preserve continuity of service and avoid complete membership turnover in any year, a system of definite staggered terms is hereby instituted. After these initial terms, members of the committee will serve four year terms.

The following individuals are appointed for a two-year term to expire on June 30,2005:

The Honorable Janet Ferris, co-chair
Circuit Judge
Second Judicial Circuit

Ezelle Alexander
County, Family and Dependency Mediator
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Michael L. Bridenback
Trial Court Administrator
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Theotis Bronson
Circuit Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Robert Doyel
Circuit Judge
Tenth Judicial Circuit

Gregory Firestone
Family and Dependency Mediator
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

Pamela McOwen
Circuit Mediator
First Judicial Circuit

Melvin Rubin
Family and Circuit Mediator
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Lynn Tepper
Circuit Judge
Sixth Judicial Circuit

Honggang Yang
Nova Southeastern University
Fort Lauderdale

The following individuals are appointed for a four-year term to expire on
June 30,2007:

The Honorable Shawn L. Briese, co-chair
Circuit Judge
Seventh Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Thomas H. Bateman
Circuit Judge
Second Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Burton Conner
Circuit Judge
Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Robin Davis
County, Family and Dependency Mediator
Eighth Judicial Circuit

Perry Itkin
County, Family and Circuit Mediator
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Kathy Reuter
County Mediator
Ninth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Ronald Rothschild
Circuit Judge
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable W. Matthew Stevenson
Appellate Judge
Fourth District Court of Appeal


Meah Tell
County, Family and Circuit Mediator
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Lawrence Watson
Circuit Mediator
Ninth Judicial Circuit

Justice Charles T. Wells will serve as the Supreme Court's liaison to the committee. The Dispute Resolution Center of the Office of the State Courts Administrator shall provide the necessary staff support to enable the Committee to

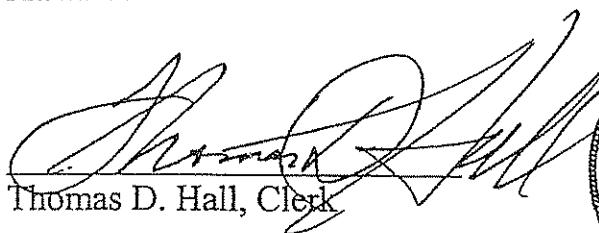
perform its duties. Members of the Committee shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to be reimbursed for per diem and travel expenses associated with their service.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, this 8th day of July, 2003.



Chief Justice Harry Lee Anstead

ATTEST:



Thomas D. Hall, Clerk

