

FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF MARYLAND
NOTICE TO ALL ATTORNEYS IN CIVIL CASES

It has come to the attention of the Court that some parties are subverting the intended purpose of scheduled settlement conferences in the First Judicial Circuit.


The stated purpose of these conferences is to, if possible, arbitrate, negotiate and resolve disputes in an effort to ease the pressure on the trial dockets.

It appears that the spirit of the stated purpose is being abused by certain parties in that counsel are given no authority to negotiate and settle cases.

Even though the Rule states that all parties to a case shall be present at a given conference, to accommodate some of the litigants, the settlement judges have not required their presence if they were available for communication with counsel and the Court. This accommodation will no longer be permitted.

Therefore, effective with the scheduled July 200¹⁶ conferences and all conference dates thereafter, counsel and all parties should be prepared to comply with the following:

1. All interested parties to a case, including the representatives of their insurers who have authority to settle, shall be in attendance at the settlement conference.
2. The filing of Pre-trial Statements fifteen (15) days prior to the settlement conference is mandatory.


Daniel M. Long
Circuit Administrative Judge