



THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR
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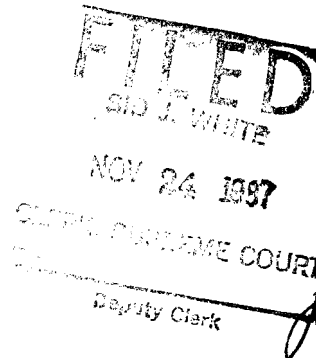
TAMPA, FLORIDA 33602

THOMAS P. BECHT
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

(813) 272-5894

November 23, 1987

Mr. Sid J. White
Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida
500 South Dival Street
Supreme Court Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1927



Dear Mr. White:

The Regional Court Based Mediators meeting was held at the 13th Judicial Circuit Court in Tampa, Florida on November 20, 1987. A listing of the members who attended the meeting is attached.

The Proposed Rules for the Implementation of Florida Statutes sections 44.301-44.306, submitted by the Mediation and Arbitration Committee of the Supreme Court (pursuant to Administrative Order of the Chief Justice entered on July 24, 1987) were discussed during the November 20th meeting. The participants voiced the following concerns in regard to the proposed mediation/arbitration rules:

1. Section 1.710(a)

There will be some difficulty in adhering to the specific time frame for completion of mediation, especially in cases where 2-3 mediation sessions will be necessary.

2. Section 1.720(d)

Attorney participation during the mediation session could be disruptive, and the confidentiality issues with the attorney being present are in question.

3. Section 1.760(b)

These qualifications for Family Mediators will limit and jeopardize the continuation of present court based mediation programs and future hiring of mediators for these programs. Salary ranges for court based Family Mediators are not commensurate with these qualifications.

4. Section 1.760(b)(4)

The proposed rules did not address whether or not the 40 hour training is to be taken before or after the mediator is hired, and the availability of the 40 hour training for court based mediators.

We support the proposed mediation/arbitration rules as a whole, and would also like to see a practicing court based mediator on the committee.

Sincerely,
THOMAS P. BECHT *T.P.B.*
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

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on behalf of
the Regional Court Based Mediators

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