



STATE OF FLORIDA  
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 33577

GILBERT A. SMITH  
CHIEF JUDGE

November 23, 1987

(813) 365-1000

The Honorable Parker Lee McDonald  
Chief Justice  
Supreme Court Building  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re: Proposed Mediation and  
Arbitration rules

Dear Mr. Chief Justice:


I would like to propose that the Supreme Court consider amending Sections 1.760(b)(2); 1.760(c)(1) and 1.810(b) of the proposed rule to add:

"or a retired attorney in good standing  
in the Bar of any other state".

We have many retired attorneys and Judges from other states who reside in Florida who have great talent for mediation and arbitration. Our experience in the Twelfth Circuit using retired attorneys in our Citizen Dispute Settlement Program, Small Claims Court Mediation and Family Mediation program have been very positive. Without these volunteers in County Court Small Claims we would never be able to handle our present case load.

I think that with the many other safeguards in the proposed rules that this amendment would not open the gates to unqualified persons.

Yours very truly,

  
Gilbert A. Smith  
Chief Circuit Judge

GAS/mbc