

Proposal 03-05
Offered by the Illinois Appellate Court, First District

New Rule 310.1 **Appellate Settlement Conference Program**

(a) Applicability to Districts. Settlement conference programs may be undertaken and conducted in those appellate districts which, with the approval of the Supreme Court, elect to utilize this procedure and in such other districts as directed by the Supreme Court.

(b) Local Rules.

- (1) Each appellate district electing to establish a settlement conference program shall adopt rules for the conduct of such a program. Prior to the establishment of a settlement conference program, the presiding judge of the appellate district, or the chairman of the executive committee in the case of the First District, shall submit to the Supreme Court for its review and approval, through its Administrative Office, rules governing the operation of the district's program.
- (2) At minimum, the rules adopted by an appellate district electing to establish a settlement conference program shall address:

 - (i) Actions eligible for inclusion in the program;
 - (ii) Appointment, qualifications and compensation of the mediators;
 - (iii) Selection of cases for referral to a mediator;
 - (iv) Scheduling of the mediation conferences;
 - (v) Conduct of the conference;
 - (vi) Absence of a party at the conference and sanctions;
 - (vii) Termination and report of mediation conference;
 - (viii) Finalization of agreement;
 - (ix) Immunity and confidentiality;
 - (x) Mechanism for reporting to the Supreme Court on the settlement conference program.

Rule 313. Fees in the Reviewing Court

- (a)** Unless excused by law, in all cases docketed in the reviewing court all appellants or petitioners shall pay a filing fee of \$25.00, and all other parties upon entry of appearance or filing any paper shall pay a \$15.00 fee.
- (b)** For any district of the Appellate Court that adopts a settlement plan allowing non-judicial mediators to be employed in the settlement process, the filing fees for the above mentioned appellants and petitioners in civil cases shall pay an additional \$100 as and for a filing fee in addition to the sum provided for in Supreme Court Rule 313(a) which, sums so collected shall be used to compensate non-judicial mediators.