

**MESSAGE FROM CIRCUIT COURT REGARDING CIVIL PRETRIAL SCHEDULING/STATUS/SETTLEMENT
CONFERENCES (6/24/20)**

All Track 2 civil pretrial/status conferences, and Track 3 settlement conferences will resume on July 9. The Track 2 cases will be heard telephonically, and the Track 3 settlement conferences will either be held telephonically or by videoconference (Zoom for Government). Counsel or self-represented litigants can expect to hear from the judge's staff regarding call-in instructions no later than the day prior to the scheduled hearing.

As stated in a previous message to the Bar on May 22, the court removed all Track 2 civil/pretrial status conferences and Track 3 settlement conferences that were scheduled from March 16 through July 2, and indicated that they would not be rescheduled. Nevertheless, we were able to reschedule those Track 2 and 3 cases scheduled to be heard through May 1 to dates in the coming months.

Because of the sheer number of the remaining cases, however, and a limited ability on the part of the Assignment Office to contact all affected parties in a timely fashion, the court has decided to set them on special dockets beginning Thursday, July 2 through Friday, August 28. If you had a Track 2 or Track 3 civil case set for status or pretrial between May 7 and July 2 that was removed, you will soon receive a new notice setting the case for telephonic scheduling before Judge Ronald Rubin. Judge Rubin's staff will contact you with call-in instructions no later than the day prior to the scheduled hearing. At that hearing, Judge Rubin will inquire as to whether the matter has settled and – if not – insure that pretrial statements have been filed and that there are no outstanding motions. He will then set a trial date convenient to the court and parties.

Please remember that civil jury trials will not be set until December, 2020, at the earliest, and the parties are encouraged to engage in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) whenever possible. If you wish to utilize ADR, please contact Special Magistrate Sarah Malik at smalik@mccourt.com.

Thank you for your patience as we try to reschedule the remaining cases as soon as practicable.

Robert A. Greenberg, Administrative Judge