

**NEW CIRCUIT COURT POLICY REGARDING CIVIL TRACK 3 SETTLEMENT/PRETRIAL CONFERENCES
(8/3/20)**

Prior to the court closure on March 16, 2020, this court held Settlement/Pretrial Conferences on Thursdays in Track 3 civil cases. Counsel and/or the parties met with a Senior Judge first, in an effort to reach a settlement. If this could not be accomplished, the parties then appeared on the same day in front of the Administrative Judge, to set a trial date and resolve any other issues.

This practice was resumed on July 9, in an attempt to facilitate early resolution of cases. Unfortunately, many of the cases have not been in a posture to settle, owing to failure to complete discovery, failure to answer the complaint, and other issues. Accordingly, effective August 6, 2020, the court is instituting a new policy so as to expedite resolution of these cases. This policy will remain in effect until at least October 4, 2020.

On August 6, any parties scheduled for a Settlement/Pretrial Conference in Track 3 cases will forego the Settlement Conference and appear only for Pretrial, by telephone, before the Administrative Judge. All previously-scheduled Settlement Conferences in Track 3 civil cases are hereby removed from the docket. The parties may receive a notice from the court informing them that the Settlement Conference (but not the Pretrial) has been removed.

The Administrative Judge's law clerk will contact counsel no later than the day before the Thursday hearing with call-in instructions for the Pretrial, which will begin at 1:30 p.m. Counsel should make themselves available during this time, at the risk of having a trial date set without their participation. At the Pretrial hearing, the parties will be given the opportunity to re-schedule the Settlement Conference before a Senior Judge, on the next available date. Those newly-established Settlement Conferences will also occur on Thursdays, at 1:30 p.m. and may be virtual (Zoom for Government), at the discretion of the Senior Judge assigned to the case.

Robert A. Greenberg, Administrative Judge