

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

In Re: ()
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Voluntary Mediation () General Order
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The Court being mindful that mediation offers an opportunity for parties to resolve legal disputes with less cost and time and to the satisfaction of the parties, and that parties to adversary proceedings or contested matters should be encouraged to consider mediation as a method of resolution at the time of the first scheduling conference or preliminary hearing; and

The Court finding that it is appropriate to establish a voluntary mediation program to be available to litigants and counsel as an alternate method of resolving disputes; and the court further finding that such a mediation program should be voluntary, court-annexed, with mediators appointed and cases assigned by the court and the process court directed; and

The Court further finding that the adoption of a voluntary mediation program is not meant to preclude parties to a dispute in any manner from pursuing any other form of alternate dispute resolution agreed to by the parties;

NOW THEREFORE the following Voluntary Mediation Program is hereby adopted effective upon the establishment of a Panel of Mediators.

A. Assignment to Mediation Program

Any Adversary Proceeding or Contested Matter may be assigned by the Court to the Mediation Program. In any Mediation in which a bankruptcy estate is a party, compliance with 11 U.S.C. 327 is required.

B. Bankruptcy Mediation Panel

The judges of the Bankruptcy Court shall establish and maintain a list of qualified mediators to serve as mediators in Adversary Proceedings and Contested Matters pending before the Court.

1. All attorneys, Rule 9 Interns and non-lawyers seeking to be appointed to the Bankruptcy Court Mediation Panel shall:
 - a. Submit an application to the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court in the form attached as Exhibit "A;" and
 - b. Have completed a Bankruptcy Mediation orientation and training program

as prescribed by the Bankruptcy Court; and

- c. Agree to voluntarily mediate one pro bono matter every six (6) months; and
 - d. Agree to serve on the Bankruptcy Court Mediation Panel for two (2) years.
2. Attorney applicants shall have been a member in good standing of the bar of any state or the District of Columbia for at least three (3) years and currently be admitted to practice before the bar of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington.
3. Rule 9 Intern applicants shall be admitted to practice under Rule 9 of the Admission to Practice Rules for the State of Washington.

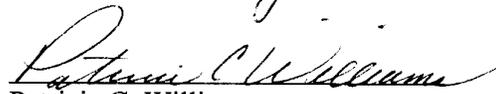
C. Compensation to Mediators

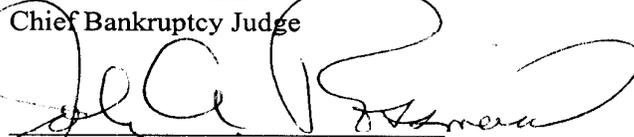
Other than matters to be mediated on a pro bono basis, mediators will be compensated as agreed by the parties. Where compensation from a bankruptcy estate is contemplated, 11 U.S.C. 330 will apply.

D. Assignment to Mediation

Assignment of a matter to the Mediation Program and appointment of a mediator will be by court order. Conduct during a mediation, once assigned, shall comply with the procedural requirements established by the court.

DATED this 20th day of January 2000.


Patricia C. Williams
Chief Bankruptcy Judge


John A. Rossmeissl
Bankruptcy Judge


John M. Klobucher
Bankruptcy Judge