

ILLINOIS – SOUTHERN

December 1, 2009

RULE 16.3 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

(28 U.S.C. § 651, *et seq.*)

(a) Authorization of Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution

To encourage and promote the use of alternative dispute resolution in this district, the parties shall use an early neutral evaluation in the form of a settlement conference in all civil cases except for the cases listed in SDIL-LR 26.1(a). The Court may, in its discretion, set any civil case for summary jury trial or other alternative method of dispute resolution which the Court may deem proper.

(b) Settlement Conference

(1) The parties may request a settlement conference at any time. The Court may set a settlement conference at its discretion at any time during the course of the litigation.

(2) In addition to the lead counsel for each party, a representative of each party or the party's insurance company with authority to bind that party for settlement purposes shall be present in person.

(3) The notice of the settlement conference shall set forth the format of the conference, any requirement for information that must be submitted to the presiding judicial officer prior to the conference, and the types of documents or other information that must be brought to the conference.

(4) The statements or other communications made by any of the parties or their representatives in connection with the settlement conference shall remain confidential and shall not be admissible or used in any fashion in the trial of the case or any related case.