

**IN THE COURTS OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2007-09**

**IN RE:           ARBITRATORS / MEDIATORS**

**ARBITRATORS AND MEDIATORS**

WHEREAS, Chapter 44, *Florida Statutes*, authorizes mediation and arbitration and provides for certification of persons eligible and qualified to serve as mediators or arbitrators in accordance with standards established by the Supreme Court, and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Florida has by rule established the required qualifications for county court, family and circuit court mediators and the required qualifications for arbitrators (Rules 1.720 and 1.810, *Florida Rules of Civil Procedure*), it is

ORDERED that:

1. Any person qualified and certified by the Supreme Court of Florida to serve as a mediator and/or arbitrator desiring to serve in the First Judicial Circuit shall file a written request for installation on the First Judicial Circuit's Registered Mediators and Arbitrators List maintained by the Chief Judge in accordance with §44.102(4).
2. Mediators shall be compensated at the hourly rate set by the presiding judge in the referral order and in further accordance with the statutes.
3. Arbitrators shall be compensated pursuant to §44.103(3) and Rule 1.810 at a rate not to exceed \$1,500 per diem, unless the parties agree otherwise, and in further accordance with the statutes.
4. In voluntary arbitration, the arbitrators shall be compensated by the parties according to their agreement and in further accordance with the statutes.
5. In the absence of a written agreement providing for the mediator's compensation, mediators shall be compensated in accordance with the rules and statutes at the hourly rate set by the presiding judge in the referral order. Where appropriate, each party shall pay a proportionate share of the total charges of the mediator.
6. Arbitrators engaged in court-ordered non-binding arbitration shall be compensated in accordance with the rules and statutes. At no time may an arbitrator in court-ordered arbitration charge more than \$1,500 per diem, unless the parties agree otherwise.

7. In voluntary binding arbitration, the arbitrators shall be compensated by the parties according to their agreement and in accordance with the rules and statutes.

8. Mediation and arbitration should be accessible to all parties regardless of financial status. Upon a finding that a party is indigent, compensation of the mediator or arbitrator shall be pursuant to the applicable rule(s) and statute(s).

DONE AND ORDERED in Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007.

Signed by: Kim A. Skievaski, Chief Judge

Copies furnished to:

Escambia/Santa Rosa Bar Association, *The Summation*  
Okaloosa/Walton Bar Association  
All Judges, First Judicial Circuit