

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2.801-9/08*

IN RE: ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION OFFICE

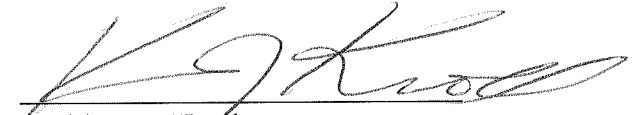
Rule 2.215(b)(3), Fla.R.Jud.Admin., mandates the chief judge to "develop an administrative plan for the efficient and proper administration of all courts within [the] circuit". The public policy of this state favors amicable settlement of disputes through mediation and arbitration, thus avoiding litigation, *see, e.g., Schnurmacher Holding, Inc. v. Noriega*, 542 So.2d 1327 (Fla. 1989). The Fifteenth Judicial Circuit has established a number of alternative dispute resolution programs in furtherance of this public policy and to reduce delay. The establishment of an Alternative Dispute Resolution Office will increase the court's effectiveness and provide for coordination of existing and new programs to foster the amicable settlement of disputes;

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority conferred by Florida Rule of Judicial Administration 2.215, it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. An Alternative Dispute Resolution Office is hereby established for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida.
2. The Alternative Dispute Resolution Office shall:
 - a. Direct and manage the affairs of the circuit's alternative dispute resolution programs.
 - b. Implement all policies and procedures for the effective administration of the programs.
 - c. Recommend new and revised policies and procedures.
 - d. Recommend and draft proposed administrative orders for the chief judge's signature to implement new and revised policies.
 - e. Develop and administer, in consultation with the court administrator, a budget for the effective administration of the programs.
 - f. Provide for and coordinate and/or conduct appropriate training of circuit personnel, program contractors, and program volunteers in conformity with state law and applicable court rules.

- g. Recommend the establishment of new programs and changes in existing programs to insure coordination and efficiency.
- h. Perform other duties as assigned by the chief judge and court administrator.

DONE and **SIGNED** in Chambers at West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida, this 29 day of September, 2008.


Kathleen J. Kroll
Chief Judge

*supersedes admin. order no. 2.010-10/03