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SUPREME COURT OF DELAWARE

E. NORMAN VEASEY
CHIEF JUSTICE

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ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE NO. 139

This 4th day of April 2002,

IT APPEARS THAT:

(1) Voluntary mediation of litigants' disputes has proven to be an effective and efficient method of alternative dispute resolution in this and other jurisdictions.

(2) Some, but not all, Delaware courts have promulgated rules authorizing mediation and have assigned judicial resources for this purpose.

(3) It would benefit the people of Delaware and enhance the service provided by the Delaware Judiciary if there were a comprehensive mediation program for all courts that would enable trained judicial officers to mediate cases in their own and other courts.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DIRECTED, with the unanimous approval of the members of the Supreme Court pursuant to the Delaware Constitution, art. IV, § 13(1), effective immediately, as follows:

(A) A Committee is hereby established to consider the best methods by which the Judiciary can promote voluntary mediation in all courts. The Mediation Committee, after consulting with experts and obtaining information from Delaware courts and other

jurisdictions, shall prepare a report and recommendation for a Delaware Courts Mediation Program.

(B) The report shall include recommendations concerning the following:

(i) the types of cases that would be eligible;

(ii) all procedural aspects of mediation, including the manner in which mediators will be selected and the day(s) and manner in which mediations will be scheduled;

(iii) qualifications for mediators;

(iv) appropriate facilities for mediations; and

(v) proposed rules, statutes (if necessary), staffing, budget, and performance standards.

(C) The Committee's report shall be provided to the Supreme Court on or before October 1, 2002.

(D) The following judicial officers are hereby appointed to serve on the Committee: Chancellor Chandler, President Judge Ridgely, Judge Crowell, Judge James, and Judge Ableman. Justice Berger is appointed to chair the Committee and Susan Parker is appointed as staff to the Committee.

E. Norman Veasey
Chief Justice

cc: The Honorable Ruth Ann Minner — Members of Judicial Conference
The Honorable Joseph T. Walsh — Attorney General
The Honorable Randy J. Holland — Public Defender

The Honorable Carolyn Berger
The Honorable Myron T. Steele
Counsel to the Governor

Dennis B. Jones
Court Administrators
Clerk of Supreme Court
Budget Director
Chair of Senate Judiciary Committee
Chair of House Judiciary Committee