



## Memorandum Office of the Administrative Judge Ninth Judicial District

Hon. Alan D. Scheinkman, Administrative Judge of the Ninth Judicial District has announced a realignment of the current protocols for handling general civil litigation in Westchester Supreme Court. The changes will affect new civil cases, other than those assigned to specialized court parts (Commercial Division, Matrimonial, Article 81 and Tax Certiorari parts). The realignment will be implemented effective with the Tenth Term, beginning on September 14, 2009. The goal of the realignment is to concentrate judicial resources on trials and substantive motions and to provide intensive civil case management. The plan was developed in consultation with Chief Administrative Judge Pfau, Presiding Justice Prudenti, and Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Coccoma. The procedural details will be released shortly and will be available on the Ninth Judicial District's web site. The highlights of the plan include:

- The elimination of most appearances for Preliminary Conferences by giving counsel the option of submitting a stipulated Preliminary Conference Order by facsimile and e-mail in lieu of appearance.
- Compliance Conferences will be held before court attorney/referees in a new centralized Compliance Part. Pre-motion conferences will be held before any discovery motions may be filed.
- Cases ready for trial will be conferenced in a newly established Settlement Conference Part. While each case will be the subject of two settlement conferences, firm trial dates will be established at the end of the first conference.
- A Certification Conference will be held approximately one week prior to the scheduled trial date. Appearance can be avoided if counsel (or any self-represented parties) transmit a copy of a stipulated Certification Order in advance. That submission may be by facsimile or e-mail.
- Cases marked final and ready for trial will be assigned to a new Trial Ready Part to be assigned out for trial to the Justices presiding in the Individual Assignment Parts.
- Each case will be assigned to an IAS Justice who will be responsible for deciding substantive motions made in the case through summary judgment. Non-substantive motions will generally be heard by the Justice assigned to the Compliance Part, as will motions relating to calendar practice.