

**United States Bankruptcy Court
Northern District of California**

**Guidelines for Settlement Conferences and Mediations
with the Assistance of Out-of-District Judges**

The court always encourages and appreciates parties' efforts to resolve disputes through alternative dispute resolution. In order to ensure compliance with applicable law and Ninth Circuit protocol, the court offers these Guidelines, which must be followed where parties choose to engage in settlement discussions or mediation with the assistance of a judge appointed in a district other than that in which the case or proceeding is pending. While they focus on the use of out-of-district bankruptcy judges, please understand that these Guidelines apply to the use of any out-of-district magistrate or active district judges, too.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 152(a), all bankruptcy judges are appointed in a specific judicial district. This means that they can perform judicial duties – including conducting settlement conferences or mediations – only in cases venued within their home district. 28 U.S.C. § 155(a) permits a bankruptcy judge to perform judicial duties outside their home district upon the approval of the Judicial Council of the relevant circuit. The Ninth Circuit Judicial Council requires entry of an order authorizing a judge's temporary transfer to another district *prior* to the commencement of work outside the home district. A sample temporary transfer order is attached to these Guidelines for your convenient reference.

We strongly encourage you to contact the chambers of your proposed settlement or mediation judge as far in advance as possible. This will accommodate the time it might take to request and obtain a temporary transfer order, and will minimize any burden on or inconvenience to the proposed settlement or mediation judge, the Chief Bankruptcy Judge, and the Ninth Circuit.

We appreciate your understanding and adherence to these Guidelines.

**THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE
TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF:
JUDGE
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE**

**ORDER RE
TEMPORARY TRANSFER
(28 U.S.C. § 155(a))**

Before: MURGUIA, Chief Judge

The Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, having determined that a need for the service of a bankruptcy judge exists, hereby Orders, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 155(a), that the Honorable JUDGE having consented to serve, is temporarily transferred as a United States Bankruptcy Judge to the District of DISTRICT to perform judicial duties including mediations and settlement conferences during the period of October 5, 2024, through October 5, 2025.

This temporary assignment shall be in addition to Judge JUDGE's duties in his/her resident District of HOME.

This ORDER entered the 26th day of July 2024.

For the Judicial Council

Mary H. Murguia
Chief Judge

Dated: _____