



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

August 1, 2015

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed with this letter is a communication from the Clerk of this Court affording you the opportunity, with the approval of the U.S. District Judge, to consent to the reference of any part or all of the proceedings in this case to a U.S. Magistrate Judge, including reference for final disposition.

Careful consideration should be given to this option.

To assist the federal courts in coping with dramatically increased caseloads, Congress authorized the reference to a U.S. Magistrate Judge of any part or all of the proceedings in a civil case, both jury and non-jury, upon consent of all parties (28 U.S.C. § 636[c]). All of the U.S. District Judges in this District refer cases under this provision to our able and experienced U.S. Magistrate Judges who are almost always able to schedule early and firm trial dates, in accordance with the needs of the parties.

Whether to consent to a reference to a U.S. Magistrate Judge is entirely up to you and your client. This case has not been specifically selected for this program; the Clerk sends out this notice in every civil case. If a party declines to consent to a reference, that fact is known only to the Clerk and not to any of the District or Magistrate Judges.

This program has proved to be of great benefit to counsel, client, and the Court.

Sincerely yours,

Hon. Steven D. Merryday, Chief Judge

Hon. Charlene Edwards Honeywell

Hon. Elizabeth A. Kovachevich

Hon. Roy B. Dalton, Jr.

Hon. James D. Whittemore

Hon. Sheri Polster Chappell

Hon. Timothy J. Corrigan

Hon. Brian J. Davis

Hon. Virginia Hernandez Covington

Hon. Paul G. Byron

Hon. Marcia Morales Howard

Hon. Carlos E. Mendoza

Hon. Mary S. Scriven