

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## OF AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL RULES OF COURT OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2008

The U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania has adopted amendments to the Local Rules of Court effective December 1, 2008.

A copy of the amendments to the Local Rules of Court may be obtained from the Clerk's Office and the Court's web site @ [www.pamd.uscourts.gov](http://www.pamd.uscourts.gov)

### Summary of Amendments to the Local Rules effective December 1, 2008

- 1. LR 5.1 Size and Other Physical Characteristics of Papers and Other Documents.** The proposed amendment to LR 5.1(b) makes the requirement to provide a three inch space at the top of the first sheet of documents only applicable to documents not filed electronically. The proposed amendment to paragraph (l) more effectively serves the court's policy underlying the rule by having it relate to cases involving pro se litigants rather than In forma pauperis litigants. Additionally, the words "in litigation" have been stricken because the rule should be intended to provide an exemption for only the actual pro se litigant, not any party in affected cases.
- 2. LR 7.10 Motions for Reconsideration or Reargument.** The proposed amendments to Local Rule 7.10 are to clarify the briefing schedules for motions for reconsideration.
- 3. LR 16.3 Conferences of Attorneys.** The proposed amendment to Local Rule 16.3 makes it clear that the duty to initiate the joint case management plan discussions and filing rests with counsel for the plaintiff. The stricken language in the rule, regarding exempted classes of cases, removes repetitive language already set forth under LR 16.1.

4. **LR 16.8.3 Compensation and Expenses of Mediators.** The proposed amendments to LR 16.8.3 are intended to address the concerns of the mediators over the amount of pro bono time expended in a mediation under the court annexed program. The proposed rule would limit the mediator's time commitment to one full day of pro bono mediation service per assignment.
5. **LR 26.1 Duty to Investigate and Disclose.** The December 2006 amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure addressed the issue of inadvertent disclosure of information. Those amendments eliminate the usefulness of LR 26.1(7). Consequently, paragraph (7) has been deleted.
6. **LR 83.8.1.3 Procedure.** The proposed amendment to Local Rule 83.8.1.3 inserts language in the rule to support the Middle District Court requirement that an attorney who wishes to seek general admission must name a sponsor and have that sponsor present at the admission ceremony to move for admission.