

**In the Appellate Court of Illinois  
First Judicial District**

**ORDER**

The Appellate Court of Illinois, First Judicial District, by action of a majority of the judges thereof, hereby ORDERS that the attached amended Rules of the First Judicial District, are adopted as part of the rules of this court adopted May 5, 2021, and thereafter amended, pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 22(h). This amendment shall be effective immediately upon its approval by a majority of the justices of the First Judicial District and filing with the clerk.

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**Executive Summary of proposed changes to Local Rule 21.**

Our objective was to revise and clarify the rule, ensuring alignment with Supreme Court Rule 310.1. Mediator qualifications have been updated to state that they must either be a sitting judge of the Appellate Court or a pro bono attorney with appropriate training and appointed by the court. The process of assigning cases to mediation has been clarified for consistency with Supreme Court Rule 310.1. Additionally, we specify the authority responsible for entering mediation orders and provide an option for remote settlement conferences based on the parties' preferences.

**Executive Summary of proposed changes to Local Rule 22.**

The Appellate Lawyers Association asked for a change to Local Rule 22 (e) to make the language consistent with Rule 5 and make clear that a filer need not "file" a previously "electronically filed brief."

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**ORDER ENTERED**

**MAY 15 2026**

**APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT**

*First Division*

/s/ James Fitzgerald Smith  
Presiding Justice James Fitzgerald Smith

/s/ Nathaniel Howse  
Justice Nathaniel Howse Jr.

/s/ Cynthia Y. Cobbs  
Justice Cynthia Y. Cobbs

**ORDER ENTERED**

**MAY 15 2026**

**APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT**

*Second Division*

*Rena Marie Van Tine*  
Presiding Justice Rena Marie Van Tine

*Margaret S. McBride*  
Justice Margaret S. McBride

*David W. Ellis*  
Justice David W. Ellis

*Debra B. Walker*  
Justice Debra B. Walker

**ORDER ENTERED**

**MAY 15 2026**

**APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT**

*Third Division*

*LeRoy K. Martin*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Justice LeRoy K. Martin

*Bertina Lampkin*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Justice Bertina Lampkin

*Mary K. Rochford*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Justice Mary K. Rochford

*Jesse G. Reyes*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Justice Jesse G. Reyes

**ORDER ENTERED**

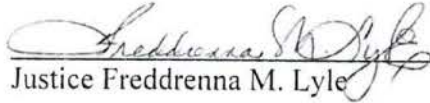
**MAY 15 2026**

**APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT**

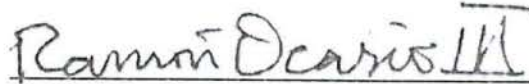
*Fourth Division*



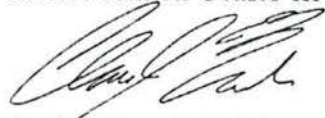
Presiding Justice David R. Navarro



Justice Freddrenna M. Lyle



Justice Ramon Ocasio III



Justice Clare J. Quish

**ORDER ENTERED**

**MAY 15 2026**

**APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT**

*Fifth Division*

/s/ Raymond W. Mitchell

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Presiding Justice Raymond W. Mitchell

/s/ Mary L. Mikva

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Justice Mary L. Mikva

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Justice Sharon O. Johnson

/s/ Thaddeus L. Wilson

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Justice Thaddeus L. Wilson

**ORDER ENTERED**

**MAY 15 2026**

**APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT**

*Sixth Division*

/s/ Carl A. Walker

Presiding Justice Carl A. Walker

/s/ Aurelia M. Pucinski

Justice Aurelia Pucinski

/s/ Michael B. Hyman

Justice Michael B. Hyman

/s/ Celia G. Gamrath

Justice Celia Gamrath

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**ORDER ENTERED**

**MAY 15 2026**

**APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT**

ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT  
AMENDED LOCAL RULE 21  
(Effective May 15, 2026)

AMENDED LOCAL RULE 21  
GOVERNING APPELLATE SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PROGRAM

**Rule 21. Settlement Conference Program.**

(a) **Purpose and Goals.** As set forth in Illinois Supreme Court Rule 310.1, the purpose of the Appellate Settlement Conference Program is to provide an alternative means for resolving certain civil appeals in the Illinois Appellate Court. The Program is intended to give parties to an appeal an opportunity and forum to discuss their case, simplify and/or limit the issues, negotiate settlement, and consider any matters that may aid in disposition of the appeal or resolution of the action or proceeding. Local Rule 21 governs the conduct of the Program in the First District.

(b) **Applicability.** Only certain civil appeals are eligible for assignment to the Program. Appeals from judgments or orders entered in the following types of proceedings or actions are ineligible for inclusion in the Program: juvenile court proceedings, adoption proceedings, paternity proceedings, actions where the custody of or allocation of parental responsibilities for a minor is the sole issue, actions where the mental capacity of a party is at issue, contempt, sanctions, incarceration, petitions for extraordinary relief such as *mandamus*, petitions for writs of *habeas corpus*, actions for judicial review of decisions of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, and election contests. The Mediation Committee may decline to assign an eligible matter to the Program if it deems the appeal inappropriate.

(c) **Definitions.** The following terms when used in this Rule are defined as follows:

(1) *Court*: the First District Illinois Appellate Court.

(2) *Appellate Mediator*: a judge of the Court or volunteer licensed attorney, approved by the Mediation Committee, appointed to preside over a settlement conference. An Appellate Mediator shall receive no additional compensation and is entitled to such immunity as provided by law.

(3) *Mediation Committee*: a committee of six judges of the Court – one from each division – appointed to administer the Program. A chair should be elected by majority vote of the Mediation Committee.

(4) *Settlement Administrator*: an individual, who may be the Clerk of the Court or its designee, appointed to assist the Mediation Committee with administering the Program.

(d) **Appointment of Appellate Mediator.** The Mediation Committee will appoint the Appellate Mediator to preside over a settlement conference. If a selected mediator is unavailable or must recuse from the case due to a conflict of interest, the Mediation Committee shall promptly select another Appellate Mediator.

(e) **Qualifications of Appellate Mediator.** The Appellate Mediator must be either a judge of the Court who is not on the appellate panel assigned to hear the case, or an Illinois licensed attorney who agrees to serve pro bono, abide by this Rule and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 310.1, and attests that they have no conflict of interest in the case. The Settlement Administrator will maintain a current roster of attorneys that have been appointed and/or

approved as an Appellate Mediator. Attorneys may apply for approval to the Mediation Committee, through the Settlement Administrator, indicating their qualifications, area(s) of expertise, and attesting they have been licensed to practice law in Illinois for at least 10 years, are in good standing, and have completed a recognized 40-hour mediation training program. The Mediation Committee has sole discretion to approve or disapprove, and to assign or not assign, an attorney as an Appellate Mediator. Its decision is not appealable.

**(f) Case Selection.** Cases may be selected for the Program as follows:

(1) *Settlement Status Report.* Any party may file with the Clerk of the Court a Settlement Status Report in the form attached to this Rule, requesting that their civil appeal be assigned to the Program. Notice of the filing of a Settlement Status Report, along with a copy of the Report, must be served on all parties per Illinois Supreme Court Rule 11.

(2) *Motions for Assignment to the Settlement Conference Program.* On his or her own motion or on motion of any party, the presiding judge of the division to which a case is assigned may, with the approval of the authoring judge (if one has been assigned), recommend to the Mediation Committee that a civil appeal be assigned to the Program. If no recommendation is made, the motion should be denied by the presiding judge of the division or the assigned authoring judge.

(3) *Objection to Assignment.* Any party to the appeal may object to the case being assigned to the Program within seven business days of receiving the Status Settlement Report, a motion by a party, or notice from the Court that the case was assigned to the Program on the Court's own motion. The objection and its notice must be served on all parties per Illinois Supreme Court Rule 11. If an objection is filed, the case will not be assigned to, or will be removed from, the Program.

(4) *Evaluation.* Upon receipt of the Settlement Status Report or recommendation from a presiding judge, the Mediation Committee will evaluate the case to determine if the case is both eligible and appropriate for assignment to the Program and shall select an Appellate Mediator. If no objection is filed, and the case is otherwise eligible, the chair of the Mediation Committee must notify the Executive Committee Chair, who will assign the case to the Program, transfer it to a settlement docket, and stay the filing of the record, briefs, and/or ready date pending further court order. The Settlement Administrator shall promptly send notice to the parties of the assignment to the Program and all further actions taken regarding the Program.

**(g) Settlement Conference.**

(1) *Scheduling.* Within seven days of Program assignment, the Settlement Administrator, in consultation with the Appellate Mediator, will send the parties three proposed dates for the initial settlement conference to be held 21 to 35 days from the notice date. The parties must respond with their preferences within seven days. If a party does not respond, they are deemed available, which will be stated in the scheduling notice. The Settlement Administrator will consider the parties' preferences and provide notice to the Appellate Mediator and the parties of the initial conference date. Additional conferences will be scheduled by the Appellate Mediator in consultation with the parties.

(2) *Location of Settlement Conferences.* The Appellate Mediator shall hold all settlement conferences either in person at 160 N. LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, or remotely, considering party preferences.

(3) *Participation.* All parties must participate in appeals assigned to the Program unless

the case is removed by court order. Parties may appear through their attorneys at settlement conferences unless the Appellate Mediator orders otherwise. Attorneys must be able to reach their clients by phone, email, or text during the conference. If representing a corporation, partnership, or organization, the attorney must have access to someone with settlement authority.

(4) *Role of the Appellate Mediator.* The Appellate Mediator facilitates settlement discussions, assists in narrowing issues, and manages the conference process. The Appellate Mediator has no authority to impose a resolution and may terminate the process at any time. The Appellate Mediator must keep the Settlement Administrator apprised of the status of the conference, including scheduling, continuation, termination, or resolution.

(5) *Nature of the Conference.* Settlement conferences are informal and confidential meetings led by the Appellate Mediator, who sets the agenda and may ask parties to submit a pre-conference memorandum. The order of presentations is decided by the Appellate Mediator, who may also choose to speak with each party or their attorneys individually during the conference.

**(h) Dismissal; Agreement to Narrow Issues.**

(1) If the parties settle, they must file a stipulation to dismiss and send it to the Settlement Administrator. The Court will enter an appropriate order.

(2) If the parties agree to narrow issues, they must submit a proposed order reciting the agreed terms to the Settlement Administrator. The Court will enter an appropriate order.

(3) If the settlement conference does not result in a full settlement, the chair of the Mediation Committee shall notify the Executive Committee Chair, who will then enter an order to remove the case from the Program, return it to its original division, reestablish the filing of the record and/or briefing schedule, and reset the ready date.

**(i) Confidentiality.** Settlement conferences and related documents are confidential. They will not be recorded or referenced in court briefs or oral arguments. Except for court orders and any written agreements or documents the parties agree to make public, all documents from the parties, Appellate Mediator, or Settlement Administrator will not be filed with the Court and will be destroyed after dismissal or removal from the Program.

**(j) Sanctions.** The Court may impose sanctions under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 375 for a party's or their attorney's failure to participate in the Program in good faith, attend a regularly scheduled settlement conference, or comply with applicable rules.

**(k) Statistical Reporting.** The Settlement Administrator shall maintain statistics as to the number and type of cases that are (1) considered by the Mediation Committee for inclusion in the Program, (2) assigned to the Program, (3) removed from the Program on the objection of a party, (4) removed from the Program without any settlement having been reached, (5) dismissed by agreement of the parties while assigned to the Program, and (6) removed from the Program after the entry of an order narrowing the issues on appeal. The Settlement Administrator shall report such statistics annually to the Mediation Committee, Executive Committee Chair, and Director of the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts.

Effective May 15, 2026.

IN THE APPELLATE COURT OF ILLINOIS  
FIRST DISTRICT

Case Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Appellate Court # \_\_\_\_\_  
Trial Court # \_\_\_\_\_  
Trial Judge \_\_\_\_\_

**SETTLEMENT STATUS REPORT**

Is there a potential for settlement of this case through assignment to the Settlement Conference Program pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 310.1? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, the undersigned requests that this matter be scheduled for a Settlement Conference Program pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 310.1 and First District Illinois Appellate Court Local Rule 21.

Nature of this Cause of Action (check appropriate box):

- Tort     Contract     Probate  
 Other (briefly specify) \_\_\_\_\_

Brief statement of pertinent issues (50 words or less):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attorney(s) for Appellant(s)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
ARDC # \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney(s) for Appellee(s)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
ARDC # \_\_\_\_\_

ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT FIRST DISTRICT  
AMENDED LOCAL RULE 22 (e)  
(Effective May 15, 2026)

AMENDED LOCAL RULE 22  
GOVERNING BRIEFS

**Rule 22. Briefs.**

(a) **Time of Filing.** No party may file a brief until the record has been filed.

(b) **Supplemental Briefs.** The proposed order accompanying a motion seeking leave to file a supplemental brief shall include a date by which the supplemental brief will be filed if the motion is allowed. Supplemental briefs shall not exceed 20 pages or, alternatively, 6000 words in length unless authorized by court order.

(c) **Parties Not Filing a Brief.** Any party who has filed an appearance but will not submit a brief shall so notify the clerk by letter before the date on which the brief would be due, with proof of service to all parties of record. Unless the party is exempt from e-filing, the letter shall be filed electronically.

(d) **Adoption of Another Party's Brief.** A party wishing to adopt the brief of another party shall file a motion to adopt within 14 days of the filing of the brief being adopted. If the adopting party has already filed a brief, the length of the party's own brief and the adopted brief shall be aggregated and count toward the adopting party's length limits.

(e) **Paper Copies of Electronically Filed Briefs.** An electronically filed brief shall be considered the official original. Within five days of the electronic notification generated upon acceptance of an electronically filed brief, the filer shall provide the clerk with five duplicate paper copies of the brief and appendices bearing the court's electronic file stamp. These copies shall (1) be printed one-sided and securely bound on the left side in a manner that does not obstruct the text, (2) bear a color cover as required by Supreme Court Rule 341, and (3) be the printed version of the electronically filed document bearing the clerk's file stamp.

(f) **Briefs Filed by Parties Exempt from E-Filing.** A party exempt from e-filing shall file four duplicate paper copies of the brief and appendices in the manner set forth in subsection (e)(1) and (e)(2) of this rule.