

BANKRUPTCY JUDGE PAUL G. HYMAN, Jr.
JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE GUIDELINES, PRACTICE
AND PROCEDURES (as of April 11, 2025)

Bankruptcy Judge Paul G. Hyman, Jr. has been on Recall since 2017 for the purpose of filling in when there are vacancies in FLSB and to conduct judicial settlement conferences (JSC). Judge Hyman is now willing to conduct JSCs with parties in bankruptcy cases in the Northern and Middle Districts of Florida. For detailed instructions and procedures for Judicial Settlement Conferences with Judge Hyman, go to: <https://www.flsb.uscourts.gov/judges/judge-paul-g-hyman-jr-recall>

- **Judge Hyman will not conduct JSCs in the following matters:**
 1. In which government agencies are involved.
 2. With pro se litigants.
 3. In which the sums at issue are less than \$50,000.
 4. Involving state law issues, including the amount of attorney's fees incurred by a party pre-petition, especially if the claimant has received relief from the automatic stay.

- **Attorneys must read and comply with all Judge Hyman's requirements found at <https://www.flsb.uscourts.gov/judges/judge-paul-g-hyman-jr-recall> BEFORE attempting to schedule a Pre-JSC Conference Call and JSC.**

Judge Hyman's Availability and Process:

Judge Hyman normally conducts JSCs two days per week. The general process is:

- Submission of settlement statements 7 days before the Pre-JSC Conference Call.
- Pre-JSC Conference call involving all parties, during which Judge Hyman will set the date and time of the JSC
- JSC

Policies and Procedures

Scheduling Attorney. Parties to a judicial settlement conference must select a designated scheduling attorney prior to contacting the scheduling clerk. The scheduling attorney will be the only person communicating with the scheduling clerk.

Scheduling Clerk. Judge Hyman's scheduling clerk for JSCs: Dawn Leonard (Dawn_Leonard@flsb.uscourts.gov), (561-514-4143).

JSC Procedure Notice. The scheduling attorney must contact the scheduling clerk to request issuance of a JSC Procedure Notice. The JSC Procedure Notice will contain the following information:

- The date by which the parties must submit their Settlement Statements (typically due one week prior to the conference call).
- The date and time for the conference call with Judge Hyman and all necessary parties.
- Detailed requirements concerning what must be in the Scheduling Statement (including page limits, font, and contents), who must appear at the conference call and JSC, and conduct during the JSC.

Cancellation by Judge Hyman. Judge Hyman will cancel the conference call and JSC if the parties do not timely file the settlement statements.

Scheduling the JSC. During the conference call, Judge Hyman will schedule the JSC. This means that parties must be prepared during the call to provide Judge Hyman with a list of potential JSC dates to which all parties have already agreed. Judge Hyman will select the JSC date from this agreed list.

Notice of JSC Date/Time. After the conference call, the scheduling clerk will send out a separate notice with the JSC date/time.

Important Information

Potential Dates. Judge Hyman *may* be flexible if the parties need a date that is not available. Parties should plan ahead and have more than one agreed date to suggest as an option to ensure a timely JSC.

Names and Email Addresses. The designated scheduling attorney must provide to the scheduling clerk the names and email addresses of all lawyers and principals who will participate in the JSC. Without the names and email addresses of all participants, the scheduling clerk cannot send the Zoom invitations.

No Holding Dates. The scheduling clerk cannot hold dates. Prior to contacting the scheduling clerk, the designated scheduling attorney must coordinate with all participants and confirm a list of (i) available dates for the conference call, and (ii) available dates for the JSC. Judge Hyman will match these two lists against his schedule of open dates.

Cancellation by Parties. The designated scheduling attorney must notify the scheduling clerk immediately if the parties no longer need a scheduled judicial settlement conference.

**JUDGE HYMAN DOES NOT ALLOW ANY PERSON TO APPEAR AT
A JSC BY TELEPHONE EXCEPT IN EXTRAORDINARY
CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Judge Hyman's willingness to conduct JSCs for matters in the Northern District is a tremendous benefit to parties and attorneys who practice here. Out of respect to Judge Hyman and in appreciation for his willingness to serve, attorneys must ensure that the matters they schedule for a JSC meet Judge Hyman's criteria. If parties or attorneys in the Northern District fail to abide by Judge Hyman's JSC policies and procedures, Judge Hyman may decline to take JSCs from the Northern District. That would be a terrible loss.

We must all work together to ensure no one abuses this incredible benefit to our Court and the Northern District.