

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



IN RE:)
)
ADOPTION OF AMENDED)
EMPLOYMENT DISPUTE)
RESOLUTION PLAN)
_____)

GENERAL ORDER NO. 538

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California hereby adopts the amended Employment Dispute Resolution Plan (EDR Plan), Part B, attached to this Order pursuant to authority granted by the Judicial Conference of the United States and the approval of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit on October 24, 2013. A copy of this amended plan shall be filed with the Judicial Conference of the United States and the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit.

This amended EDR Plan shall be effective for relevant matters arising on or after October 30, 2013.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: October 30, 2013

FOR THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Morrison C. England, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR., CHIEF JUDGE
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

**U.S. District Court
for the
Eastern District of California**



Approved by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council October 24, 2013

EMPLOYMENT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PLAN
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

CHAPTER I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 1 Preamble

This Plan shall be known as the Employment Dispute Resolution Plan (“EDR Plan”). It was adopted by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California in accordance with the Federal Judiciary Employment Dispute Resolution Model Plan (Model EDR Plan) adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States on March 16, 2010 in order to provide rights and protections to employees of the U.S. District Court within the Eastern District of California that are comparable to those provided to legislative branch employees under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.

The Plan supersedes all previous versions of the EDR Plan and Chapter VII (“Annual Report”) of the Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (“EEO Plan”) imposing requirements on the court or office unit. Claims arising under Chapters II through IX of this Plan, or under Chapters I through VI of the EEO Plan, shall be treated in accordance with the procedures set forth in Chapter X of this Plan. The duties of the court’s EEO Coordinator will be assumed by the Employment Dispute Resolution (EDR) Coordinator (established in Section 6 of Chapter X of this Plan), except that the dispute resolution duties assigned to the EEO Coordinator under the EEO Plan will be replaced by the dispute resolution procedures set forth in Chapter X of this Plan.

This Plan is to be implemented in the same manner as the EEO Plan. This court has adopted and implemented this plan based upon the Model EDR Plan adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States. Modifications from the Model EDR Plan have been approved by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council. All future modifications to the EDR Plan must likewise be approved by the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council through the Office of the Circuit Executive. A copy of this Plan and any subsequent modifications shall be available to each covered employee and shall be posted on this court/office’s internal and external website(s). A copy of this Plan and any subsequent modifications shall be filed with the Office of the Circuit Executive and the Administrative Office. This court/office shall annually submit a report on the implementation of the Plan to the Administrative Office for inclusion in the Director’s Annual Report to the Judicial Conference. A copy of this annual report shall also be provided to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council through the Office of the Circuit Executive.

Policies adopted by offices within this district or within this court pertaining to adverse action or general grievance proceedings that do not invoke the rights and protections afforded under this Plan are not affected by this Plan. Further, other local policies relating to rights enumerated under this Plan that are not inconsistent with the rights and procedures established herein will not be affected by this Plan.

This Plan is not intended to duplicate the protections provided for the resolution of complaints of judicial officer misconduct or disability under 28 U.S.C. §§ 351 - 364 , and otherwise is intended to be the exclusive remedy of the employee relating to rights enumerated under this Plan.

§ 2 Scope of coverage

This Plan applies to all Article III judges and other judicial officers within this court, as well as to all employees of the court and employing offices in this district including judges' chambers staffs, court unit heads and their staffs.

§ 3 Definitions

For purposes of this Plan–

- A.** The term “claim” means the filing of a request for counseling as set forth in Chapter X, which may be further pursued by the filing of a request for mediation and a request for hearing in the form of a formal complaint.
- B.** The term “employee” includes all individuals listed in Section 2 of this Chapter, as well as applicants for employment and former employees, except as provided below. The term “employee” does not include interns or externs providing gratuitous service, applicants for bankruptcy judge or magistrate judge positions, private attorneys who apply to represent indigent defendants under the Criminal Justice Act, criminal defense investigators not employed by federal public defenders, volunteer counselors or mediators, or other individuals who are not employees of an “employing office” as that term is defined below.
- C.** The term “employing office” includes all offices of the U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of California, including the office of clerk of court, chief probation officer, chief pretrial services officer, and any such office that might be created in the future. This court is the employing office of a judicial officer’s chambers staff.
- D.** The term “judicial officer” means a judge appointed under Article III of the Constitution, a United States bankruptcy judge, a United States magistrate judge, or a judge of any court created by Act of Congress in a territory which is invested with any jurisdiction of a district court of the United States.
- E.** The term “court” refers to the appropriate court (appeals, district or bankruptcy) in which is located the employing office which would be responsible for redressing, correcting or abating the violation alleged in the complaint. In the case of disputes involving federal public defenders, the term “court” refers to the court of appeals.

CHAPTER II - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION RIGHTS

§ 1 General - Discrimination against employees based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and sexual harassment), national origin, age (at least 40 years of age at the time of the alleged discrimination), disability and sexual orientation is prohibited. Harassment against an employee based upon any of these protected categories or retaliation for engaging in any protected activity is prohibited. All of the above constitute “wrongful conduct.” The rights and protections of Chapters I through VI of the EEO Plan (Part A) shall also apply to employees.

§ 2 Definition - The term “disability” means–

- A.** a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an employee,
- B.** a record of such an impairment, or
- C.** being regarded as having such an impairment.

See 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2).

§ 3 Special provision for probation and pretrial services officers - The age discrimination provision of Section 1 of this Chapter shall not apply to the initial hiring or mandatory separation of probation and pretrial services officers and officer assistants. *See* Report of the Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States (March 1991), pp. 16-17. Additionally, probation and pretrial services officers must meet all fitness for duty standards and compliance with such standards does not, in and of itself, constitute discrimination on the basis of disability.

CHAPTER III - FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE RIGHTS

Title II of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 5 U.S.C. §§ 6381 - 6387, applies to court employees in the manner prescribed in Volume 12, Chapter 9, Section 920.20.35 of the Guide to Judiciary Policy.

CHAPTER IV - WORKER ADJUSTMENT AND RETRAINING NOTIFICATION RIGHTS

§ 1 General - No “employing office closing” or “mass layoff” (as defined in Section 2 of this Chapter) may occur until the end of a 60-day period after the employing office serves written notice of such prospective closing or layoff to employees who will be affected. This provision shall not apply to an employing office closing or mass layoff that results from the absence of appropriated funds.

§ 2 Definitions

- A.** The term “employing office closing” means the permanent or temporary shutdown of a single site of employment if the shutdown results in an employment loss at the single site of employment during any 30-day period for 50 or more employees excluding any part-time employees.
- B.** The term “mass layoff” means a reduction in force which:
1. is not the result of an employing office closing; and
 2. results in an employment loss at the single site of employment during any 30-day period for
 - a. (1) at least 33 percent of the employees (excluding any part-time employees); and
(2) at least 50 employees (excluding any part-time employees);
or
 - b. at least 500 employees (excluding any part-time employees).

See 29 U.S.C. § 2101.

CHAPTER V - EMPLOYMENT AND REEMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES

An employing office shall not discriminate against an eligible employee or deny an eligible employee reemployment rights or benefits under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, 38 U.S.C. §§ 4301 - 4335.

CHAPTER VI - OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROTECTIONS

- § 1 General** - Each employing office shall provide to its employees a place of employment which is free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees. Claims that seek a remedy that is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the General Services Administration (“GSA”) or the United States Postal Service (“USPS”) to provide are not cognizable under this Plan; such requests should be filed directly with GSA or the USPS as appropriate.
- § 2 Court program requirements** - The court shall implement a program to achieve the protections set forth in Section 1 of this Chapter.

CHAPTER VII - POLYGRAPH TESTS

Unless required for access to classified information, or otherwise required by law, no employee may be required to take a polygraph test.

CHAPTER VIII - WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

§ 1 **General** - Any employee who has authority to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personnel action shall not, with respect to such authority, take or threaten to take an adverse employment action with respect to any employee (excluding applicants for employment) because of any disclosure of information by the employee to -

- A. the appropriate federal law enforcement authority, or
- B. a supervisor or managerial official of the employing office, a judicial officer of the court, or the Administrative Office of the United States Courts,

which the employee reasonably and in good faith believes evidences a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or other conduct that constitutes gross mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, provided that such disclosure of information -

- 1. is not specifically prohibited by law,
- 2. does not reveal case-sensitive information, sealed material, or the deliberative processes of the federal judiciary (as outlined in the Guide to Judiciary Policy, Vol. 20, Ch. 8), and
- 3. does not reveal information that would endanger the security of any federal judicial officer.

§ 2 **Definition** - For purposes of this Chapter, an “adverse employment action” means a termination, demotion, transfer, or reassignment; loss of pay, benefits, or awards; or any other employment action that is materially adverse to the employee’s job status, compensation, terms, or responsibilities, or the employee’s working conditions.

CHAPTER IX - REPORTS OF “WRONGFUL CONDUCT”

A report of “wrongful conduct” is not the same as initiating or filing a claim under this Plan; thus, employees who wish to file an EDR claim relating to any alleged “wrongful conduct” as defined in Chapter II, Section 1 must follow the procedures set forth in Chapter X of this Plan.

Judges and employees are encouraged to report “wrongful conduct” to the court’s EDR Coordinator, the chief judge, unit executive, human resources manager, or their supervisor as soon as possible, before it becomes severe or pervasive. Retaliation against any employee making a report of “wrongful conduct” is prohibited. The person receiving such a report has the responsibility to notify the EDR Coordinator as soon as possible.

The EDR Coordinator shall promptly inform the chief judge and unit executive of any report. The chief judge and/or unit executive shall ensure that the allegations in the report are appropriately investigated, either by the human resources manager or other person.

All individuals involved in the investigation shall protect the confidentiality of the allegations of “wrongful conduct” to the extent possible. Information and records about the allegations shall be shared on a need-to-know basis.

Employees found by the chief judge and/or unit executive to have engaged in “wrongful conduct,” as defined in this Plan, may be subject to disciplinary action.

CHAPTER X - DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

§ 1 General procedure for consideration of alleged violations - An employee who claims a denial of the rights granted under Chapters II through IX of this Plan, or who claims a violation of the prohibition against retaliation set forth in Section 5.A., shall seek resolution of such claims through the procedures of this Chapter. Generally, the procedural process consists of—

- A. counseling and mediation;
- B. hearing before the chief judge of the court (or a designated judicial officer) in which the alleged violation arises; and
- C. review of the hearing decision under procedures established by the judicial council of the circuit.

§ 2 Alleged Violation by Employee - Before invoking a request for counseling an employee (to the extent feasible) is encouraged to bring his or her concerns to his or her supervisor or unit executive, unless the supervisor or unit executive is the alleged violator. In such a situation, the court or employing office should specify alternative neutral points of contact for the initial inquiry. An employee alleging that any of the rights granted under the EEO Plan or this Plan have been violated, and who seeks relief under this Plan, must file a request for counseling with their court’s EDR Coordinator in accordance with Section 8 of this Chapter.

§ 3 Alleged Violation by Judge - Any employee alleging that a judge violated any rights granted under the EEO Plan or this Plan may file an EDR claim in accordance with this Plan. In such an instance, however, all the claims procedures of this Chapter shall be performed by the circuit judicial council, either by members of the council directly or by persons designated to act on its behalf, which may include the chief judge of the circuit. If a judge becomes the subject of both an EDR claim and a judicial misconduct complaint under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 351-364, the circuit judicial council or its designee, which may include the chief judge of the circuit, will craft a procedure for determining any common issues of fact and processing both complaints, subject to all requirements of the Act, the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings, and, as practicable, this Plan. In so doing, the council or its designee, who may include the chief judge of the circuit, may determine that all or part of the EDR claim must be abated until action is taken on the judicial misconduct complaint.

§ 4 Confidentiality - The court or employing office shall protect the confidentiality of allegations filed under this Plan to the extent possible. However, information about allegations filed under this Plan shall be shared on a need-to-know basis. Records relating to violations under this Plan shall be kept confidential on the same basis.

§ 5 General provisions and protections

- A. Prohibition against retaliation** - Claimant(s)/complainant(s) under this Plan have the right to be free from retaliation, coercion, or interference because of filing a claim pursuant to this Plan. Likewise, any person who participates in the filing or processing of a claim, such as an employment dispute resolution coordinator, mediator, witness, representative, or co-worker, is also entitled to freedom from retaliation.

- B. Right to representation** - Every individual invoking the dispute resolution procedures of this Plan has the right to be represented by a person of his or her choice if such person is available and consents to be a representative. A court employee may accept the responsibilities of representation if it will not unduly interfere with his or her court duties or constitute a conflict of interest, as determined by the representative's appointing officer. A representative who is an office employee shall be free from restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, and reprisal, and shall have a reasonable amount of official time to accompany, represent, and advise the claimant(s)/complainant(s) or the person complained against at any stage in the complaint procedures. The employing office also has the right to representation.

- C. Case preparation** - To the extent feasible, every individual invoking the dispute resolution procedures of this Plan may use a reasonable amount of official time to prepare his or her case, so long as it does not unduly interfere with the performance of his or her court duties.

- D. Extensions of time** - The chief judge of the court, or other presiding judicial officer, may extend any of the deadlines set forth in this Chapter for good cause. The EDR Coordinator and the assigned mediator may likewise, after notification to the parties involved, extend the deadlines related to their functions for good cause.

- E. Dismissal of claim** - On his or her own initiative or at the request of any party, the chief judge or presiding judicial officer may at any time in the proceedings, dismiss a claim on the grounds that it does not invoke violations of the rights or protections granted under the EEO Plan or this Plan, is untimely, is unduly repetitive of a previous claim, adverse action, or grievance, is frivolous, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. The claim/complaint will be stayed until the request for dismissal is decided.

- F. Records** - At the conclusion of formal and informal proceedings under this Plan, all papers, files, and reports will be filed with the EDR Coordinator. No papers, files, or reports relating to a dispute will be filed in any employee's personnel folder, except as necessary to implement an official personnel action.

§ 6 Designation and duties of EDR Coordinator - The court shall designate a person to serve as the EDR Coordinator. The court may designate more than one EDR Coordinator. The duties of such person shall include the following:

- A.** to provide information to the court and employees regarding the rights and protections afforded under this Plan;

- B.** to coordinate and organize the procedures and establish and maintain official files of the court pertaining to claims and other matters initiated and processed under the court's employment dispute resolution plan;

- C.** to coordinate the counseling of individuals in the initial stages of the claim process, in accordance with Section 8 of this Chapter; and

- D.** to collect, analyze, and consolidate statistical data and other information pertaining to the court's employment dispute resolution process.

§ 7 **Disqualification Provision-** Any person seeking disqualification or recusal of an EDR coordinator, counselor, mediator, or reviewing official shall promptly submit a written statement to the chief judge explaining the reasons for the requested disqualification or recusal. In determining whether disqualification or recusal is warranted, the chief judge shall consider the factors, circumstances and considerations set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 455. If disqualification or recusal is warranted, the chief judge shall designate another individual to act as the EDR coordinator, counselor, mediator, or reviewing official. In the event, the chief judge is unavailable to serve under this subsection or has disqualified or recused himself or herself pursuant to this provision, the chief judge will designate another judicial officer to serve as the reviewing official. Disqualification or recusal of the EDR coordinator, counselor, mediator or reviewing official of a court shall not be warranted merely because the court is named as a responding party. However, to avoid possible conflict of interests if the court/office unit executive, e.g., clerk of court, is the alleged violator of the Plan's provisions, the chief judge may designate another party to represent the employing office in mediation and/or at the formal hearing.

§ 8 **Counseling**

A. **Initiating a proceeding; formal request for counseling -** An employee who believes that his or her rights under Chapters II through IX of this Plan have been violated must first request counseling.

B. **Form and manner of requests -** Requests for counseling:

1. are to be submitted to the court's/office's EDR Coordinator;
2. must be made in writing and contain all the violations asserted by the claimant (copy of approved form is contained in Appendix 1); and
3. must be made within 30 days of the alleged violation or within 30 days of the time the employee first becomes aware of the alleged violation.

C. **Procedures**

1. **Who may serve as counselor -** The counseling shall be conducted by the court's/office's EDR Coordinator, unless the EDR Coordinator is disqualified from serving as counselor under Section 7 of this Chapter, or is otherwise unavailable. In such instances, the chief judge of the court shall designate another qualified individual to perform the counseling function and the EDR Coordinator shall promptly provide a copy of the request for counseling to the unit executive and the chief judge of the court.

2. **Purposes of counseling** - The purposes of the counseling shall be to discuss the employee's concerns and elicit information regarding the matter which the employee believes constitutes a violation; to advise the employee of his or her rights and responsibilities and the procedures of the court applicable to the employment dispute resolution process; to evaluate the matter; and to assist the employee in achieving an early resolution of the matter, if possible.
 3. **Confidentiality** - Unless the employee agrees in writing to waive confidentiality, the court or employing office shall protect the confidentiality of allegations filed under this Plan to the extent possible. However, information about allegations filed under this Plan shall be shared on a need-to-know basis. Records relating to violations under this Plan shall be kept confidential on the same basis.
 4. **Form of settlement** - The EDR Coordinator shall reduce to writing any settlement achieved during the counseling process and secure the signatures of the employee, his or her representative, if any, and the member of the employing office who is authorized to enter into settlement on the employing office's behalf.
- D. Duration of counseling period** - The period for counseling shall be 30 days (or a shorter period if counseling is concluded at an earlier date), beginning on the date that the request for counseling is received by the EDR Coordinator.
- E. Conclusion of the counseling period and notice** - The EDR Coordinator shall notify the employee in writing of the end of the counseling period. As part of the notice, the EDR Coordinator shall inform the employee of the right and obligation, should the employee choose to pursue his or her claim, to file with the EDR Coordinator a request for mediation in accordance with Section 9 of this Chapter.

§ 9 Mediation

- A. Initiation** - Within 15 days after receipt by the employee of the notice of the conclusion of the counseling period, the employee may file with the EDR Coordinator a request for mediation. The request must be made in writing and must state the claim(s) presented (copy of approved form is included as Appendix 2). The EDR Coordinator shall promptly provide a copy of the request for mediation to the unit executive and the chief judge of the court. Failure to pursue mediation (unless waived by mutual agreement of both parties) will preclude further processing of the employee's claim under any other provisions of this Chapter.

B. Procedures -

- 1. Designation of mediator** - As soon as possible after receiving the request for mediation, the chief judge or EDR Coordinator shall designate a mediator and provide written notice to the parties of such designation.
- 2. Who may serve as mediator** - Any person with the skills to assist in resolving disputes, except the court's EDR Coordinator, may serve as a mediator under this Plan.
- 3. Purpose of mediation** - The mediator shall meet separately and/or jointly with the employee and his or her representative, if any, and the employing office to discuss alternatives for resolving a dispute, including any and all possibilities of reaching a voluntary, mutually satisfactory resolution.
- 4. Confidentiality** - Any person or party involved in the mediation process shall not disclose, in whole or in part, any information or records obtained through, or prepared specifically for, the mediation process, except as necessary to consult with the parties or their representatives, and then only with notice to all parties.
- 5. Form of settlement** - The mediator shall reduce to writing any settlement achieved during the mediation process and secure the signature of the employee, his or her representative, if any, and the member of the employing office who is authorized to enter into settlement on the employing office's behalf. A notice that settlement was reached will be provided to the EDR Coordinator for report purposes.

C. Duration of mediation period - The mediation period shall be 30 days unless waived (or a shorter period if mediation is concluded at an earlier date), beginning on the date the request for mediation is received. The employee is required to attend at least one mediation session. Thereafter, he or she may proceed to file a complaint and request for hearing.

D. Conclusion of mediation period and notice - If, at the end of the mediation period, the parties have not resolved the matter that forms the basis of the request for mediation, the mediator shall provide the employee, the employee's representative, if any, and the employing office with written notice that the mediation period has concluded. A copy of this notice shall be sent to the EDR Coordinator who, in turn, shall inform the employee of his or her right to file a complaint under Section 10 of this Chapter.

§ 10 Complaint, review and hearing

- A. Complaint-** Not later than 15 days after receiving written notice of the end of the mediation period, the employee may file a complaint alleging a violation of the EDR Plan. The complaint shall be in the form approved by the court/office (see approved form in Appendix 3), and must be filed with the chief judge of the court of the employing office with a copy to the employing office and to the EDR Coordinator. Claims that were not presented in the request for mediation under Section 9.A. may not be pursued except in instances in which mediation has been waived. The respondent in all complaints shall be the employing office which would be responsible for redressing, correcting or abating the violation(s) alleged in the complaint. No individual shall be named as a respondent in the complaint.
- B. Hearing procedures**
- 1. Presiding judicial officer -** If the chief judge or designated judicial officer does not dismiss the complaint, the chief judge or designated judicial officer shall hold a hearing on the merits of the complaint unless he or she determines that no material factual dispute exists. The presiding judicial officer may request a response be submitted on behalf of the employing office and by any person or entity with knowledge relevant to the complaint. If requested, the presiding judicial officer will direct the respondent to provide such response to the claimant in a timely manner in advance of the hearing. Generally, the scope of the hearing should be limited to a review of the documents and other written evidence submitted, rather than a full evidentiary hearing or trial with live witnesses, except where extraordinary circumstances are presented or the presiding judicial officer believes the allegation(s) contained in the complaint require appearances.
 - 2. Specific provisions -** The presiding judicial officer may provide for such discovery and investigation as is necessary. In general, the presiding judicial officer shall determine the time, place, and manner of conducting the hearing if appearances are required. However, the following specific provisions shall apply to hearings in which appearances are required under this Section:
 - a.** the hearing shall be commenced no later than 60 days after the filing of the complaint;
 - b.** the complainant and the head of the office against which the complaint has been filed must receive written notice of the hearing; such notice shall also be provided to the individual alleged to have violated rights protected by this Plan;

- c. at the hearing, the complainant will have the right to representation, to present evidence on his or her behalf, and to cross-examine adverse witnesses; the employing office will have the rights to present evidence on its behalf and to cross-examine adverse witnesses;
- d. the Federal Rules of Evidence need not be followed, but may be used as a guide;
- e. a verbatim record of the hearing must be kept and shall be the sole official record of the proceeding;
- f. in reaching his or her decision, the chief judge or presiding judicial officer shall be guided by judicial and administrative decisions under the laws related to Chapters II through IX of this Plan and by decisions of the judicial council Section 11 of this Chapter;
- g. remedies may be provided in accordance with Section 12 of this Chapter where the hearing officer finds that the complainant has established by a preponderance of the evidence that a substantive right protected by this Plan has been violated;
- h. the final decision of the chief judge or designated judicial officer must be issued in writing not later than 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing with or without appearances; and
- i. all parties, or any aggrieved individual, shall have the right to written notice of any action taken as a result of a hearing.

§ 11 Review of decision - A party or individual aggrieved by a final decision of the chief judge or presiding judicial officer, or by a summary dismissal of the complaint, may petition for review of that decision. Such review must be requested in writing to the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit no later than 30 days following the date of the final decision of the chief judge or the presiding judicial officer or following the date of a summary dismissal of the complaint. Any review will be conducted by the members of the Executive Committee of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council or their designees. The decision of the Executive Committee shall be based on the record created by the hearing officer, and shall be affirmed if supported by substantial evidence. (See Appendix 4 for “Procedures for Review of EDR Hearing Officer Decision by the Executive Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit”).

§ 12 Remedies

- A.** Where judicial officers acting pursuant to Section 10 or 11 of this Plan find that a substantive right protected by this Plan has been violated, they may order a necessary and appropriate remedy. A remedy may be directed at correcting a past violation, prospectively insuring compliance with the rights protected by this Plan, or both. A remedy shall be tailored as closely as possible to the specific violation involved.
- B.** Remedies which may be provided to successful complainants under this Plan include, but are not limited to:
1. placement of an employee in a position previously denied;
 2. placement in a comparable alternative position;
 3. reinstatement to a position from which the employee was previously removed;
 4. prospective promotion to a position;
 5. priority consideration for a future promotion or position;
 6. back pay and associated benefits, including attorney's fees, where the statutory criteria of the Back Pay Act, 5 U.S.C. § 5596, are satisfied;
 7. records modification and/or expungement;
 8. "equitable" relief, such as temporary stays of adverse actions;
 9. granting of family and medical leave; and
 10. accommodation of disabilities through the purchase of specialized equipment or the restructuring of duties and work hours, or other appropriate means.

C. Remedies which are *not* legally available include:

1. payment of attorney's fees (except as authorized under the Back Pay Act);
2. compensatory damages; and
3. punitive damages.

§ 13 Record of final decisions - The conclusion of the reviewing panel in any final decisions reached in accordance with the provisions of Section 11 of this Chapter shall be made available to the public from the Office of the Circuit Executive upon written request. Only in the event the panel determines that all or portions of the entire decision should be made public shall additional portions of the decision be made available to the public. The reviewing panel, in the interests of justice and of fairness to the parties, may determine not to make available to the public the conclusion of any final decision if public disclosure would compromise the integrity or legitimate confidentiality of the parties or the court, or to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, undue burden or expense, or for any other reason that the administration of justice may require.

§ 14 Election of remedies - If an employee or an employee representative files an appeal of an adverse action or a grievance in addition to a complaint under this Plan concerning the same or substantially the same subject matter, the employee must elect either (a) the EDR Plan or (b) the grievance/adverse action appeal procedures under which the complaint is to be processed. An employee may not utilize both (a) and (b). Similarly, if a complaint has already been processed under one of these procedures (i.e., the grievance/adverse action appeal procedure or the procedures in this Plan), it may not be the subject of a complaint under the other.

§ 15 Determining Time Periods - The word "days" in all filing and other time periods specified in this Plan shall mean calendar days, except that if the deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the following Monday or court business day respectively.

§ 16 Annual Report - The EDR Coordinator will prepare an annual report for the fiscal year, indicating:

1. The number and type of alleged violations for which counseling was conducted.
2. The number and type of alleged violations for which mediation was conducted.
3. The number and type of complaints filed.
4. The number and type of hearings conducted.
5. The number and type of final decisions rendered reflecting the number for which some relief was granted.
6. With respect to all the data supplied in items 1 through 5 above, the allegations or complaints shall be reported according to the Chapter(s) of the EDR Plan involved and, with respect to allegations or complaints under Chapter II, according to the type(s) of discrimination alleged.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

APPENDIX 1

REQUEST FOR COUNSELING UNDER EDR PLAN FORM

REQUEST FOR COUNSELING UNDER EDR PLAN

Submitted Under the Procedures of the Employment Dispute Resolution Plan for the
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

Prior to completing this form, please refer to the Employment Dispute Resolution Plan
for your court unit. Please complete this form legibly.

1. Full Name of Person Requesting Counseling _____
2. Mailing Address _____

3. Home Phone(____) _____ Work Phone(____) _____
4. If you are a current court employee, state the following:
Court Unit in which employed _____
Job Title _____
5. Name and address of the office from which you seek resolution of your dispute.

6. Date(s) of alleged incident or decision giving rise to this dispute:

7. Please summarize the actions or occurrences giving rise to this dispute (if attached on separate page, indicate so below).

8. Do you have another person who represents you in this matter? yes no

If yes, please indicate name and contact information for that person:

9. What corrective action do you seek in this matter (if attached on separate page, indicate so below)?

The EDR Coordinator and Employing Office shall protect the confidentiality of allegations filed under this plan to the extent possible; however, information about allegations filed under the EDR Plan shall be shared on a need-to-know basis. This form and any other records related to violations under the EDR Plan shall be kept confidential on the same basis.

This request for counseling is submitted by:

Signature

Date

Submit completed form to:
Greg Santee/ EDR Coordinator
U.S. District Court
501 I Street #4-200
Sacramento, CA 95814

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY EDR COORDINATOR:

Name of Counselor to whom submitted: _____

Counselor's Signature _____ Date of Receipt: _____

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

APPENDIX 2

REQUEST FOR MEDIATION UNDER EDR PLAN FORM

REQUEST FOR MEDIATION UNDER EDR PLAN

Submitted Under the Procedures of the Employment Dispute Resolution Plan for the
U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

Prior to completing this form, please refer to the Employment Dispute Resolution
Plan for your court unit. Please complete this form legibly.

**Please attach a copy of the REQUEST FOR COUNSELING FORM filed in connection
with this matter.**

1. Full Name of Person Requesting Mediation _____
2. If any of the information supplied in the REQUEST FOR COUNSELING UNDER EDR PLAN
filed in connection with this matter is no longer accurate, please note the number of the entry on
the request for counseling form to be changed, and state the change(s) you wish to make (if
attached on a separate page, indicate so below):

3. Date counseling was initiated _____
4. Date of receipt of the notice of conclusion of counseling _____
5. Name of person who provided counseling _____
This request for mediation is submitted by:

Signature

Date

Submit completed form to:
Greg Santee/ EDR Coordinator
U.S. District Court
501 I Street #4-200
Sacramento, CA 95814

THIS SECTION TO BE COMPLETED BY EDR COORDINATOR:

Name of Person to whom submitted: _____

Signature of recipient _____ Date of receipt: _____

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

APPENDIX 3

COMPLAINT UNDER EDR PLAN FORM

COMPLAINT UNDER EDR PLAN

Filed Under the Procedures of the Employment Dispute Resolution Plan for the
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California

Prior to completing this form, please refer to the Employment Dispute Resolution Plan for your court unit. Please complete this form legibly.

1. Full Name of Person Filing Complaint_____

2. Mailing Address_____

3. Home Phone(_____) _____ Work Phone(_____) _____

4. If you are a court employee, state the following:

Court Unit in which employed_____

Job Title_____

5. Name and address of the Employing Office against whom this complaint is filed
(under the terms of the EDR Plan, all complaints must be filed against an "Employing Office", not an individual):

6. Identify the Chapter(s) of the EDR Plan under which your complaint is being filed.

- Chapter II- Equal Employment Opportunity & Anti-Discrimination Rights
 - Race
 - Color
 - Religion
 - Gender/Sex (includes sexual harassment)
 - National Origin
 - Age
 - Disability
 - Sexual Orientation

- Chapter III- Family and Medical Leave Rights

- Chapter IV- Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Rights

- Chapter V- Employment and Reemployment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services
- Chapter VI- Occupational Safety and Health Protections
- Chapter VII- Polygraph Tests
- Chapter VIII - Whistleblower Protection
- Chapter IX - Reports of Wrongful Conduct

7. Date(s) of alleged violation _____

8. Date on which counseling was requested _____

Date on which counseling was completed _____

Date on which mediation was requested _____

Date on which mediation was concluded _____

9. Name of person who served as Counselor on this matter _____.

10. Name of person who served as Mediator on this matter _____.

11. Please summarize the actions or occurrences giving rise to your complaint. Explain in what way you believe your rights under the EDR Plan were violated. Identify all persons who participated in this matter or who can provide relevant information concerning your complaint. (If separate document attached, state so below.)

[Please attach a copy of any documents that relate to your complaint, such as an application form, resume, letters, notices of discipline or termination, etc..]

12. What corrective action do you seek from your complaint?

13. Do you have an attorney or any other person who represents you in this matter?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide the following information concerning that person:

Name _____

Address _____

Work Phone(_____) _____ Fax(_____) _____

I affirm that the information provided in this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

Submit completed form to:
Greg Santee/ EDR Coordinator
U.S. District Court
501 I Street #4-200
Sacramento, CA 95814

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

APPENDIX 4

**PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW OF EDR HEARING OFFICER
DECISION BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

**Procedures and Form for Review of EDR Presiding Judicial Officer Decision by the
Executive Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit**

I. Scope of the Rules

These rules govern procedures for petitioning for review of a decision, or summary dismissal, of an Employment Dispute Resolution (EDR) Plan complaint rendered by the chief judge or presiding judicial officer of the court involved (Hearing Officer). Such review is conducted by the Executive Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit (Executive Committee).

II. Filing of Petition for Review

- A. *Filing the Petition for Review* - A party aggrieved by a final decision of the Hearing Officer or by summary dismissal of a complaint, may petition for review of that decision or summary dismissal by filing a petition for review to which is attached a copy of the decision of the Hearing Officer (or a copy of the summary dismissal).
- B. *Form of Petition and Supporting Arguments* - The petition shall be in accordance with the "Petition For Review" form shown in Appendix 5. Included in the petition or as an attachment to the petition shall be a statement, not to exceed 10 pages in length (8½ X 11 white paper, double-spaced, single-sided) setting forth the basis for the petition and all arguments and information in support of the petition. The petition must be filed with the Executive Committee in a timely manner as set forth in Section III below.
- C. *Serving the Petition for Review* - The petitioning party must serve the petition on the Executive Committee by having it delivered to the Circuit Executive at the following address:

Office of the Circuit Executive
Assistant Circuit Executive of HR - EDR Plan
P.O. Box 193939
San Francisco, CA 94119

Parcel Delivery
95 Seventh Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Fax: 415/ 355-8901

III. Filing Deadlines

- A. *Time for Filing a Petition for Review* - A petition for review must be submitted to the Executive Committee no later than 30 days following the date of the final decision of the Hearing Officer or following the date of a summary dismissal of the complaint.

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- B. *Requests for Extension of Time* - The Executive Committee may extend the time to file a petition for review and for any other filing specified in these procedures, provided the request is received no later than the required filing date, and provided the petitioner shows good cause or excusable neglect.
- C. *Determining Time Periods* - The word “days” in all filing deadlines in these procedures shall mean calendar days, except that if the deadline date occurs on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the next following Monday or court business day respectively.

IV. Consideration by the Executive Committee

- A. *General* - All reviews will be conducted by the members of the Executive Committee, and shall be based on the decision of the Hearing Officer or the summary dismissal of a complaint and any documents submitted by the parties in response to the directive of the Executive Committee as outlined below.
- B. *Scope of Record and Documents to be Considered* - Within 20 days following receipt of the petition for review, the Executive Committee shall notify the parties concerning what, if any, additional information, i.e., record (e.g. hearing transcript), documents and/or briefs, may be submitted for its consideration. Unless notified by the Executive Committee of its request for additional information, neither party is to submit further information.
- C. *Oral Argument* - Oral argument normally will not be permitted, but may be ordered by the Executive Committee. Either party may request oral argument. The petitioner must include the request in the petition; the respondent may make the request by letter submitted no later than 7 days from receipt of the petition. The request must explain why oral argument is necessary. If granted, oral argument, may, at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee, be conducted via teleconference using video and/or audio technology.
- D. *Standard of Review* - The decision or summary dismissal of the Hearing Officer shall be affirmed if supported by substantial evidence.
- E. *Summary Disposition* - If at any time prior to the final submission of the case for review, the Executive Committee determines that the basis(es) of the request for review are so insubstantial as not to justify further proceedings, the court may issue an appropriate dispositive order.
- F. *Form of Final Review* - The Executive Committee shall issue its decision in writing.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

APPENDIX 5

**PETITION FOR REVIEW TO THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

Name of Petitioner or Petitioner's Counsel
Address
Telephone #
Fax #

Name of Court in Which Hearing Officer's Decision Was Issued

A.B., Petitioner)
)
)
)
v.)
)
C.D., Respondent)

Petition for Review of Decision in
(Or Summary Dismissal of) Employment
Dispute Resolution Plan Complaint

Notice is hereby given that (name the party petitioning for review), petitioner(s) in the above named case, hereby petition for review to the Executive Committee of the Judicial Council for the Ninth Circuit from the decision (or summary dismissal of the complaint) by Judge (name of Hearing Officer) entered in this matter on the ___ day of _____, 20__).

Attached to this petition is a copy of the Hearing Officers Decision (or summary dismissal of the complaint). The basis of this petition for review is set forth below [or in the attached statement].

Submitted this ___ day of _____, 20__.

Signature: _____ Date: _____