

IN RE: ESTABLISHMENT of a VOLUNTARY PILOT
PROGRAM for APPELLATE MEDIATION in the
ARKANSAS COURT of APPEALS

Supreme Court of Arkansas
Opinion delivered December 13, 2007

PER CURIAM. With permission from this court, an exploratory committee was formed to consider the implementation of appellate mediation in the Arkansas appellate courts. The committee has submitted a proposal and has recommended that we establish a voluntary pilot program for appellate mediation in the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals supports the program.

Upon consideration of the recommendation and the proposal submitted, the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals *invite, encourage, and request the voluntary participation in appellate mediation* and hereby authorize the establishment of a voluntary appellate mediation pilot program. The pilot program shall include select civil cases (including domestic relations, probate, and workers' compensation law cases, but excluding juvenile and public service commission cases) involving appeals from final orders to the Arkansas Court of Appeals for cases in which notices of appeal are filed on or after September 1, 2008. We further authorize the exploratory committee to promulgate rules, procedures, and forms for the voluntary pilot program for appellate mediation; to develop methods for evaluating the results of this pilot program; and, to make recommendations concerning the further use of appellate mediation or such other recommendations as it deems appropriate.

The voluntary appellate mediation pilot program shall use the procedures and rules set forth in the Arkansas Voluntary Appellate Mediation Pilot Program Rules. A copy is posted on the Arkansas Judiciary's website at <http://courts.state.ar.us/adr/>.