

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTIES OF HORRY AND)
GEORGETOWN)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

To: ALL MEMBERS OF THE PRIVATE BAR, PRO SE INDIVIDUALS, CLERK OF COURT OF HORRY COUNTY, CLERK OF COURT OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY

Re: JANUARY 1, 2012 ~ JUNE 30, 2012 ~ COMMON PLEAS

Since January 1, 2009, the Common Pleas division of the Circuit Court in Horry County and Georgetown County has not conducted master roster meetings for the jury and non-jury trial dockets, unless needed to address a specific issue or problem. Therefore, pursuant to the authority granted to me as Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, effective January 1, 2012, It is

ORDERED that the general jury docket will continue to be administered pursuant to the requirements of the Rule 40, SCRCP. All counsel and Pro Se individuals are encouraged to read Rule 40 and become familiar with its provisions. Consistent with the rule, the following procedures will be adopted:

1. If no action is taken in advance to prevent the case from automatically being called to trial, this case will be on the trial roster at thirteen months of age. **This is the only notice you will receive of this scheduling process**, so counsel and pro se parties are encouraged to diary this deadline. Because rosters are posted on each County's website at: www.horrycounty.org (either to the court docket or court roster) and www.georgetowncountysc.org (court services/common pleas), at least 30 days in

advance of trial, this means that the case will actually be placed on the trial roster at twelve months of age unless other action is taken by counsel and pro se parties as described below.

2. Prior to placement of the case on the trial docket at 12 months of age, counsel or pro se parties may file a motion requesting:

- a. A status conference, which will be conducted pursuant to Rule 16, SCRCP.
- b. A scheduling order;
- c. A postponement of trial to some specific future roster;
- d. A date certain trial;
- e. Complex designation and assignment to an individual judge, if appropriate;
- f. Reference to the master or special referee; or
- g. Any other disposition allowed by Rule 40.

It is further

ORDERED that failure to file any type of motion will result in the case automatically being placed on the trial docket at twelve months from the date of filing for trial when the case is 13 months of age. As a courtesy to other counsel and individuals whose cases are also pending on the docket, parties shall not wait until the twelve months waiting period has elapsed, and with the case already on the trial docket, to take any action regarding the trial status of the case. The Court is not likely to grant relief in such a situation; thus, it is required that motions be filed at least 90 days in advance of the deadlines contained herein to give the Court the ability to react timely.

You are further

NOTIFIED that the Court is still unable to refer tort claims to the Master in Equity in Horry County because of the tremendous caseload in foreclosures and collections presently inundating that office. Rule 53, SCRCP, allows referral to a special referee by consent of the parties. It is further

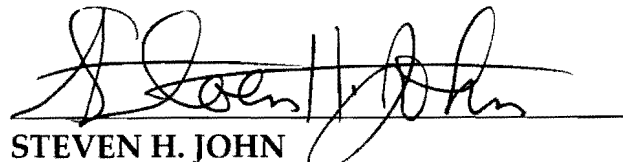
ORDERED that non-jury cases will be added to each jury roster in both counties, and the parties are expected to be prepared to go to trial when the case is docketed on the roster. It is further

ORDERED that if a pre-trial conference is scheduled, the parties shall comply with Rule 16, SCRCP. It is further

ORDERED all the provisions of Rule 40, SCRCP, shall apply to the cases pending on the docket. The fact that certain provisions are highlighted above does not mean that other provisions of the Rule do not apply. It is further

ORDERED that this Administrative Order shall go into effect on January 1, 2012, and shall thereafter remain in effect unless rescinded by the Chief Justice of the State of South Carolina or the Chief Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


STEVEN H. JOHN
Chief Administrative Judge
Court of Common Pleas
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

January 1, 2012

Conway, South Carolina