## **Settlement Conferences**

Facilitation is a valuable part of the litigation process and the court encourages the parties and counsel to consider voluntary settlement conferences when and where appropriate. The court is willing to serve as a facilitator upon the parties' request and/or an order of reference. The court will be prepared to devote the entire day for the conference. Counsel's and their clients' schedules should be cleared for the entire day. Trial counsel and all persons with ultimate and final settlement authority must be present.

After a settlement conference has been scheduled, the court will send a Notice to the parties with additional information to be furnished in advance of the conference.