

Friday

12th

June, 2009.

It is ordered that the Rules heretofore adopted and promulgated by this Court and now in effect be and they hereby are amended to become effective July 1, 2009.

Amend Rule 1:15 to read as follows:

**Rule 1:15. Local Rules of Court.**

(a) Whenever a local rule is prescribed by a circuit court it shall be spread upon the order book and a copy with the date of entry shall be forthwith posted in the clerk's office, filed with the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, and furnished to attorneys regularly practicing before that circuit court; and whenever an attorney becomes counsel of record in any proceedings in a circuit court in which he does not regularly practice, it shall be his responsibility to ascertain the rules of that court and abide thereby. The clerk shall, upon request, promptly furnish a copy of all rules then in force and effect.

(b) Whenever a local rule is prescribed by a circuit court providing for the orderly management of the civil docket by use of the praecipe system, the praecipe shall be substantially in the form appearing in the appendix of forms at the end of this Part One.

(c) Whenever a local rule is prescribed by a circuit court providing for the submission of instructions prior to trial, such local rule shall be substantially in the form appearing in the appendix of forms at the end of this Part One.

(d) The chief judges of the circuit and juvenile and domestic relations district courts shall, on or before December

31 of each year, furnish the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court current general information relating to the management of the courts within each circuit and district. This information shall be assembled and published electronically by the Executive Secretary.

Amend Rule 1:20 to read as follows:

**Rule 1:20. Scheduling Civil Cases for Trial.**

The circuit courts of the Commonwealth shall adopt one or a combination of the following procedures for scheduling civil cases for trial.

(a) Counsel of record may agree to a trial date and may secure approval of the court by telephone call or other electronic communication to the designated court official.

(b) Counsel of record may agree to a trial date as a part of a written plan prepared and submitted to the court for approval pursuant to Rule 1:18.

(c) The court may, at the request of counsel of record, or may in its own discretion, direct counsel of record to appear, in person or by telephone, for a conference to set a trial date and consider other matters set forth in Rule 1:19 or Rule 4:13.

(d) The court may set civil cases for trial at a docket call held on a day as provided by § 17.1-517.

(e) Following the submission of a praecipe, the court may set civil cases for trial at a docket call held on a day as provided by § 17.1-517.

The Executive Secretary shall make accessible these procedures on the Internet. The clerk of each district and

circuit court shall make their respective procedures available in the office of the clerk of that court.

Amend Rule 7A:15 to read as follows:

**Rule 7A:15. General Information Relating to Each Court.**

The chief judges of the general district courts shall, on or before December 31 of each year, furnish the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court current general information relating to the management of the courts within each district. This information shall be assembled and published electronically by the Executive Secretary.

A Copy,

Teste:

Clerk